

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XXVII—Number Four

March/April 2017

Town Meeting Day: Tuesday, March 7



Photos: Alex Brown

Voter Registration

Register at the Town Office, Mon.–Thurs. 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m.–noon, or at the polls on voting day. Register online at <https://mvp.sec.state.vt.us/>. Read your Town Report to understand the many changes in the law making voter registration easier and more convenient.

Early or Absentee Voting

Ballots may be requested from the Town Office at 223-3313 or may be picked up at the office. All ballots must be returned to the office by 5 p.m. on Mon. Mar. 6 to be counted, or they may be returned at the polling place on Mar. 7.

Town/School Forum

Sat. Mar. 4, 9:30 a.m.–noon at EMES. Come discuss all School and Town Warning articles, including the budget items that are to be voted by Australian ballot. The candidates for offices will be introduced. Remember to bring your copy of the Town Report.

Town Meeting Day

Tues. Mar. 7, 9:30 a.m. at EMES.
The Town and School Meetings are both warned for 9:30 a.m. The School District Meeting will be first, followed by the Town Meeting. Babysitting will be available.

Australian Ballot Voting

Tues. Mar. 7, 7 a.m.–7 p.m. at EMES

Town Meeting Day Potluck

Tues. Mar. 7 around noon at EMES.
To volunteer, contact Sue Racanelli at 225-6032 or racanellis@gmx.com.

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Top of the Signpost

As a small child I remember sitting with Jojo's daycare kids in one of EMES's first-grade classrooms. I wasn't exactly sure why I was there—I was five years old—or what Town Meeting was, but I remember the excitement, how the adults around me packed the blue-tiled hallway and filled the air with their conversations. I also remember the jumbo box of Goldfish for us kids to dig into. Thirteen years later, I'd call the feeling a sense of community engagement and passionate participation. This is what makes Town Meeting such an important part of local Vermont community government. Town Meeting offers our community the chance to debate, compromise, and collaborate, to envision our town's future, together.

The tradition of Town Meeting is fueled by civic and civil participation. For nearly two centuries, people, driven by passion, be it for an efficient school budget or safe roads, have come to voice their opinions and engage in one of the few direct democracy systems left in our country. The utility of Town Meeting lies entirely in the strength of community turnout and the commitment to treating the discussions that are the bedrock of a functional democracy with respect, dignity, even reverence. With such turbulent and corrupt national politics as we are experiencing, each and every local voice has never had higher value than right now.

Similarly, the voices of kids, students—the next generation—have never been more important. Children really are the future, and the discussions at Town Meeting, and at every level of government, must represent their interests. As I did when I was five, today's children are listening, watching, learning from the example set at EMES on Town Meeting Day. Encouraging civil engagement from the next generation not only strengthens our lives today, as a new spectrum of ideas are presented, but also secures a local government process that will keep our communities engaged for generations to come.

So this March 7, bring your daughter, bring your son to EMES. Let them wander around, listening to conversations and debate, joining in if they want. Encourage them to research the ballot and participate in the forum on Saturday, March 4. Because the more passionate and varied perspectives we can bring into our town discussions and decisions today, the stronger our town, communities, and country will be tomorrow.

— Ben Kaplan graduated from U-32 in June 2016. He has served as a page both in the Vermont Legislature and in the US Senate. Last summer, he ran for legislative representative of our district going door to door to get out the vote. He's currently a freshman at Columbia University, in New York City, returning home to Vermont as often as he can.

A Good Meal at Town Meeting

Discussing and debating the town's business creates mighty hungry citizens—and for that, we showcase the very best of home cooking at our annual Town Potluck. Most of you know the drill; bring a dish—appetizer, salad, main course, sides, bread/rolls, or dessert. Label your food vegetarian, vegan, or meat; tell us if it is gluten-free or has nuts. We anticipate 120 people, so your shared dish should adequately feed 8–12 guests.

Bring your dish to the cafeteria between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. and collect a lunch ticket. If you cannot bring a dish, \$5.00 will buy you one mighty fine lunch! Seconds are OK, but be mindful of the line behind you, so no one leaves hungry.

Help is needed with set-up, preparation, serving, and clean-up.

To volunteer, contact Sue Racanelli at 225-6032 or racanellis@gmx.com. We look forward to seeing you at Town Meeting.

Coming Up at Town Meeting

In addition to discussing the regular budgetary items that enable the operations of the Town and School District, there are several special items on the Town Meeting Warning of special interest. The details of each item are found in the Town Report that has been mailed to each household.

Article 5: Amendments to the East Montpelier Charter

The amendments provide for the selectboard to appoint the town clerk, collector of current taxes, and collector of delinquent taxes; the elimination of the obsolete offices of fence viewer, weigher of coal, and inspector of lumber, shingles, and wood; and an updated selection committee to ensure direct citizen involvement in the appointment of both the town clerk and town treasurer positions. The selectboard and the charter committee, which recommended these amendments, share the belief that these changes will, in the words of the committee's report, "help assure a well-functioning office with officers working to accomplish common goals in an accountable fashion."

Article 6: Dissolution of EM Fire District #1

EM Fire District #1 was created in the summer of 2010 for the sole purpose of acquiring the Crystal Springs Water System and providing potable water service to the East Montpelier Village area. After six years of fruitless negotiation with the owner of Crystal Springs, the Prudential Committee of the fire district asked that the town take the necessary steps to enable the fire district to dissolve.

The formal process to merge the district with the town requires three steps. The first occurred on January 11, 2017, when the registered voters of the fire district voted to accept the Plan of Merger at the district's annual meeting. The second will be the town Australian Ballot vote on the Plan of Merger on 2017 Town Meeting Day (Article 6). The final hurdle will be approval by the Vermont legislature of the Plan of Merger as an amendment to the East Montpelier governance charter. If the final two steps are completed successfully, the fire district will cease to exist on July 1, 2017.

Article 13: Monetary support for Cross VT Trail bridge project

The Cross Vermont Trail (CVT) project includes a 4.5-mile stretch through the southeastern part of town, generally along the old rail bed, and linking to other trail networks. The key element for this part of the trail is the construction of a bridge across the Winooski River. The \$1.6M cost of the bridge will be funded largely by federal grants. To meet a local match of \$250,000, a one-time town appropriation of \$7,500, coupled with similar support from Montpelier, Calais, Berlin, and other Central Vermont communities, is sought.

Article 18: Sanctuary Community policy

The Selectboard placed this non-binding resolution on the ballot after being contacted by many residents interested in taking such a stance as a town. The discussion and vote on the floor at Town Meeting will show where sentiment in town lies.

Why I Go To Town Meeting

We posed that question to you, and here's how you responded.

To reflect on the issues and hear the views of others.

To connect with friends and neighbors.

To enjoy a delicious potluck lunch. (Anni Campbell)

I think of Town Meeting as a holiday. I love putting names with faces, learning about our town's history, hearing different viewpoints on issues, and being part of the festivities. The town's annual report provides a basic sketch of what's going on in East Montpelier, while Town Meeting gives you the complete panoramic view. Viva Town Meeting! (Amy Willis)

I keep going to Town Meeting because I keep hoping that there will be LESS voting by Australian Ballot! I know that's not going to happen, but...(Alison Underhill)

Good food. Good people! Good Democracy!! (Tony Klein)

I attend Town Meeting because it is a Vermont tradition and I feel it is my civic duty. I also enjoy the lunch! (Allen Ploof)

A sense of community! Both social and political decision making albeit a bit less colorful than in the past when we had floor votes on everything! (Fran Weinbaum)

To feel part of the town that is larger than just the people whom I know. It's a ritual to remind me that small is good, that people care, and that I am very lucky to live here. (Ann Stanton)

They Want Your Vote

Descriptions taken largely from the VLCT Resource Manual and Vermont Law

Town and School District Moderator

(elected separately; may be one or two individuals):
one 1-year term

The moderator is the presiding officer of municipal and school meetings and shall decide questions of votes taken, except if Australian ballot is used. The moderator shall preserve order in the conduct of business and meetings.



Michael Duane: I am running for re-election for the positions of Town and School District Moderator. 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 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 Coop from 2008 to 2011. As Coop president during my final year, I presided over the monthly and annual meetings. I have served as East Montpelier Town and School District Moderator for the past two years and would be honored to serve again.

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 as examples.



Amy Willis, 3-year term: I would be honored to serve my East Montpelier neighbors on the Selectboard. My professional background is in finance and economics, which I believe will serve the community well as we continue the challenge of budgeting and keeping tax rates in check. One of my primary interests

in serving on the Selectboard stems from the work done by the Planning Commission and other groups that have

envisioned the future of the village center and town as a whole. I want to further the goals outlined in the extensive town plan, promoting commercial interests when they make sense while keeping a firm hold on the soul of our community. My recent local board appointments include Montpelier Alive, Lost Nation Theater, Eleva Chamber Players, and the Unitarian Church of Montpelier (I was president of the church from 2014–2016, and vice president in 2013). I currently serve on the local advisory board of ReSource, and was on the 2016 Vermont Book Award Committee.



Kim Swasey, 2-year term: Thank you for the opportunity to serve another term representing you on the East Montpelier Selectboard. For those of you who don't know me, I was born in Montpelier and graduated from Montpelier High in 1982. After graduating in 1986 from the University of Vermont, I was commissioned

into the United States Army and served in various assignments around the world, including the Republic of Korea. I retired from the Vermont Army National Guard in 2012 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

After retirement, I had the good fortune of being appointed to the East Montpelier Selectboard and have continued to serve since that time. In this capacity as a public servant, I earned a Master's of Public Administration from Norwich University in 2014 and continue to pursue my interest in leadership by enrolling in the Snelling Center for Government, Vermont Leadership Institute.

Taking seriously the notion of representative government, I approach this opportunity with an open mind, ready to listen, and then act based on what will be best for East Montpelier. In local government I believe discussions with community members enable us to work toward a common goal. I believe that we must look closely at our future in Vermont and through long-term planning, nurture an economically friendly community for people to grow up, prosper, and raise their own families. We must protect the environment while encouraging support to local businesses.

After marrying Norman Hill, together we reared three daughters here in East Montpelier, Jennifer, Megan, and Kaylee. Jennifer and her husband, David Weinbaum, live and work in Ellicott City, Maryland. Megan is attending Veterinary School at Purdue, and Kaylee is pursuing an English and Special Education degree from Norwich University.

Town Clerk

one 3-year term

The town clerk carries out many of the operational roles of the town office including recording, preserving and certifying public documents, administering oaths of office, complying with public information requests, posting notices on the town's bulletin board, running the local elections, maintaining the grand list, selling fish and game licenses, issuing marriage licenses, and licensing animals. The town clerk may assume unofficial duties as agreed to with the Selectboard.



CJ Flynn, one year of 3-year term: It has been a fantastic experience being the town clerk in East Montpelier. When the opportunity became available to serve our community as town clerk, I readily applied. Despite there being significant interest in the community in general, I was fortunate and proud to be appointed to the position of town clerk by the Selectboard, through Town Meeting 2017. I will now run for election to the one year balance of the elected term.

My wife, Kristi, and I have lived in East Montpelier for almost 14 years, Kristi having grown up here. We have been coming here for longer than the almost 25 years we have been married. We have three children educated in the EMES and U-32 system and have been very involved in both schools and in the community. I have been fortunate to be able to contribute to the community as a whole, through leadership in the local East Montpelier Cub Scout Pack/ Boy Scout Troop 742, as well as by volunteering on the Community Connections Advisory Board, coaching local sports, tutoring, and serving on the East Montpelier Recreation Board. For many years, I have been a part of what is going on in East Montpelier.

The presidential election and the operation of the Town Office have been my total focus over the last five or six months. I continue to learn more every day, but I believe that I have worked hard and made things better; I will continue to do so, in an effort to ensure that no one will ever be able to second-guess the decision to appoint me to this important and enjoyable position.

I would be honored to continue to serve as East Montpelier Town Clerk. I hope that my experience can continue to be beneficial to our town, and that I can count on your support this Town Meeting Day.

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.



Rob Chickering, 3-year term: I would appreciate your vote this Town Meeting Day for me to continue to serve the town as a lister. I have served in this capacity for the past six years and believe that I am well qualified to continue in this role. I have served the town in the past as a Planning Commission member and as a selectman.

The role of Lister is quite different, in that it involves few public meetings. It is a technical job that determines the assessed value of properties in our town, using computer programs that have been developed for this purpose for Vermont. Having experience with this technology enables me to work efficiently in this role.

If you have questions about my candidacy or the Lister role, feel free to call the Lister's office and leave a message if I am not there.

Town 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 the town, presenting an easy-to-understand picture of the town's finances.

No candidate

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.



Sandy F. Conti: I have served as the Town's First Constable and Animal Control Officer for ten years and still find it interesting and, at times, challenging. I enjoy the opportunity to give back to the town that I have called home for more than 20 years. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve as the first constable for an eleventh term.

Second Constable

one 1-year term

No candidate

Planning Commissioner:

three 3-year terms

The Planning Commission is responsible for preparing and maintaining a current Town Plan and Zoning regulations. It reviews significant developments and makes recommendations on issues including land development, transportation, economic and social development, historic, wetland, and scenic preservation.



Scott Paul Hess, 3-year term: I am running for re-election to the Planning Commission. My six years of service on the Commission has been very rewarding. During my last term, the Commission has worked extensively on water erosion issues, and we are currently drawing up a development plan for East Montpelier Village. I was

honored to be part of a great working group and am extremely proud of the work we've accomplished. The input, feedback, and work with various town committees has been invaluable and rewarding.

I have practical experience in several industries, including organic foods, commodities, commercial real estate, and retail stores. I am currently the treasurer of the Hunger Mountain Coop council and serve on a variety of other boards and working committees.



Jay M. Stewart, 3-year term: I'm running for a three-year term as an East Montpelier Planning Commissioner. How do you encourage growth while maintaining the cherished integrity, community, and "feel" of our town? It's a difficult question to answer but I think my legal, academic, and professional background can positively

contribute to the work of the Planning Commission. Thank you for your support.



Ray Stout, 3-year term: I am seeking re-election to the East Montpelier Planning Commission. I have worked closely with many of you, as well as my fellow members of the Planning Commission for the past two years. I am currently the only Planning Commissioner who resides within the proposed village boundary. Individuals who

reside in impacted areas must maintain a consistent voice and vote at the table. In addition to this position, I have also served on the LaPerle Farm Property Committee.

I firmly believe the work the Planning Commission has the potential to impact the Town of East Montpelier for

generations to come. As a Planning Commissioner, I am dedicated to representing the interests of those residents who reside within the newly proposed village boundary and beyond. I would appreciate your vote so I can continue to represent all of you at the Planning Commission table.

Cemetery Commissioner

one 5-year term

The cemetery commissioners are responsible for the care and management of the Town's cemeteries.



Tim Lamson: I would like your vote for the voluntary position of East Montpelier Cemetery Commissioner formally held by Pauline Colburn (who is retiring). She and Elliott Morse, our town sexton, requested that I seek this position, after conferring on the successful completion of several part-time labor projects and landscaping that

Elliott, my son Nick, and I did for the town cemeteries this past summer. If you choose to elect me, then I would have a voice at the cemetery meetings along with the four other board members: Fred Strong, Gary Hudson, Elliott Morse, and Chris Reed.

I am an Air Force veteran and proud patriot who has 18 years of service, and 4 years left on my contract as a Green Mountain Boy. I believe strongly in selfless service, which is part of the Vermont Air National Guard's core values along with integrity and excellence in all we do. I consider myself a jack-of-all-trades; however, I have a BS degree, two Associate degrees, and several Air Force Specialties that help round out my judgement. For a hobby, I run in marathons and Ultras (50 mile) for my sponsor, the American Legion Post 3, Montpelier. This year will be my fourth straight Boston Marathon. Job opportunities enabled my family to relocate here a dozen of years ago, after moving from my ancestral homeland, on a lake in the mountains of New London, N.H.

Patriotism runs deep in my family [refer to the book: *Descendants of William Lamson of Ipswich, Mass (1634-1917)*] and so many others here in town. Names like Stevens, Morse, Cutler, Ormsbee, Cummings, Wheeler, Dodge, Peck, Tinkum, Doty, Clarke, Cate, and a whole lot more need to be remembered. That starts with the proper upkeep of their cemetery markers and grave sites. Each grave maker has a story to tell, and these patriots shall not be forgotten. In addition to upkeep, we could tell stories, write books, involve school children. My three kids have gone through the quality educational system here in town, and it's high time for me to give back to the community. With your vote, it would be my privilege to serve East Montpelier as Cemetery Commissioner.

School Director

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

East Montpelier Elementary School Director

one 3-year term; one 2-year term



Rubin Bennett, 3-year term: Hi, Neighbors. It's hard to believe that another 3 years have passed! 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. Today, I remain 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, our communities, our state, and our nation.

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. Act 46 will continue to challenge and occasionally frustrate us as we move closer to implementing whatever agreement the districts are able to hammer out together. As we've already seen this year, there will be continued legislative action around school spending and property tax relief.

This board has done tremendous work to keep spending in line with student need and population, while maintaining a high quality education for all East Montpelier kids. I deeply appreciate the trust you've placed in me and hope you will see fit to send me in for another term!



Darci Coleman-Graves, 2-year term: Hi Folks. I grew up in East Montpelier and attended both EMES and U-32. I'm a Software Engineer at IBM (yes, there are still IBMers in VT). Prior to returning to East Montpelier, we lived in Chittenden County. Once we started our family and thought about what we wanted in a school system,

we decided East Montpelier was where we wanted to be. EMES has such a sense of community, we are happy to be a part of it. I've spent time in the school as a room parent for the last two years and love what I see from the teachers, students, and the rest of the community. I have volunteered as a T-Ball coach and

am currently helping with K-1 basketball. I am interested in the school board because I feel it is important to be involved and it is a way I can give back to the community. I live on the County Road with my partner Elisha Coleman and our two children, Addison and Samantha. Thank you for your consideration.

U-32 School Board Director

one 3-year term



Karen Bradley, 3-year term: I have lived in East Montpelier since 2006 with my husband, David Mathies, and children, Duncan and Ellery Mathies. As a veterinarian and owner of Onion River Animal Hospital in Middlesex, I have enjoyed meeting and caring for many area residents' pets. Speaking at career days at

our schools and interacting one-on-one with students interested in a career in veterinary medicine is one of the best parts of my job. I have extensive board experience, serving for over 15 years on the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA) Board and now the Board of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Focusing my energy on issues closer to home, I am running for a position on the U-32 school board at a time when critical changes are being made to our community schools. I am dedicated to the success of our students and the education and experiences they have at U-32 will have a lifelong impact. Joining the U-32 Board of dedicated community members, I will work collaboratively to make our U-32 the best it can be. I appreciate your support!

Check Out Village Planning at Town Meeting

The Planning Commission continues to work on the Village Master Plan. A draft working map will be available at the school during Town Meeting for residents to view, and we welcome your comments.

The latest versions of draft working maps and other relevant documents are posted on the town site—eastmontpeliervt.org—under Boards and Commissions/Planning Commission/East Montpelier Village.

May 6 — Green Up Fun Coming Soon

Each year, we, as residents, make it our responsibility to care for our roads. How? By taking a few hours on the first Saturday in May, we do our part to restore and maintain the beauty of our town.

But we need your help. Pick up a free bag from the Town Office or Dudley's, wear bright clothes, and pick up the litter in your neighborhood. Then come to East Montpelier Elementary School any time between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

We could use your help with trash sorting, recycling, or coordinating refreshments at EMES. Call Chris Racanelli at 225-6032 and he will hook you up with one of the smiling folks here in town.

You can now donate to Green Up Vermont through your Vermont income tax return. Complete Line 29d of your form. Every donation makes a difference!



Vermont Women Wire

The completion of Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity's first certified Passive House is expected this spring. Among the many volunteers who have been working for the last year are (pictured right to left) KC Whiteley, Stephanie Boucher, Jan Ruta, Lisa Lemieux, Chris Miksic (CVHFH site supervisor), Diane Zamos, and Bruce Landry (CVHFH site supervisor) led in the final stages of electrical wiring by Jan Ruta Electric. For information contact Debbie Goodwin at 802-522-8611, cvfhf.execdire@outlook.com

Please support your local Senior Center

As Director of your local senior center, I am writing to urge you to please vote for the Twin Valley Senior Center appropriation on your Town Meeting Day warning. Your support not only benefits the seniors in our communities, but it also saves taxpayer dollars by reducing premature nursing home placement, preventing hunger and malnutrition, helping to control chronic health conditions, preventing isolation, and providing a social gathering place where activities and meals can be enjoyed with others.

We once again are asking you as a resident and taxpayer of your town to help us to take care of our senior residents and keep them in their homes.

—Rita Copeland, TVSC Executive Director

Historical Society: Food and History, a Winning Combination

For the months of March and April, the historical societies of East Montpelier and Calais have planned treats for the mind and body.

On Monday, March 20, at the Four Corners Schoolhouse in EM at 6:00 p.m. there will be a potluck supper followed by a Vermont Historical Society program. Paul Carnahan and Eileen Corcoran will discuss the library and exhibit resources of the VHS. We will plan a follow-up field trip to the VHS in Barre.

Monday, April 17, at 6 p.m. will feature another potluck supper with sugar-on-snow for dessert at 6:00 p.m. at East Calais Recreation Center. Following supper, there will be a round table discussion of sugaring stories from our towns.

All are welcome. For each meeting, please bring your own place settings and a potluck dish to share. Brief business meetings will follow. Contact Dave Coburn at dave.coburn@comcast.net or visit the website at www.eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org.

Paulie's Recipe

From the *Community Cookbook* – Mildred Clark

Caramel Pudding

- 1 cup sugar (browned)
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 cup scalded milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 egg
- ½ cup chopped walnuts

Cook in a double boiler and serve with whipped cream. To brown the sugar, heat in a small saucepan until it is melted and slightly browned.

I replaced the browned sugar with maple syrup. It was wonderful. You will need to increase the corn starch to 4 tablespoons and dissolve in ½ of the cold milk.

Dave Coburn says it's yummy!

Thank you, *Signpost* supporters

Alice and Richard Angney

Joyce Bean

Robert and Carolyn Brown

Paul and Sandal Cate

Harriet Haggett

Kathy Hickman

Loring Starr

Town Offices

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Friday 9 AM–12 PM

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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

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

Selectboard

Seth Gardner, Chair
sethbgardner@hotmail.com

Carl Etnier Gene Troia
Kimberly Swazey Casey Northrup

Planning Commission

Jean Vissering, Chair, 223-3262

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
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Lindy Johnson Kimberly Kendall
Stephen Looke Flor Diaz-Smith

State Representative

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East Montpelier Students: Best in State

The Amazon River Dolphins, a group of students from East Montpelier, has been named “Best in State” in the fifth annual Verizon Innovative Learning App Challenge for their smart phone app, Reuse-It. Team members are (left to right in photo) Jack Thompson, grade 6; Henry Kasulka, grade 6; Logan Wood, grade 6; Ruby Singer, grade 8; and Jacob McCoy, grade 8. The team, sponsored by the EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Organization (PTNO), created an app to help people more effectively deal with items they’re discarding by answering questions about what can be recycled as well as locations for disposal.

The Verizon Innovative Learning App Challenge is a nationwide competition for students to design a smart phone app aimed at “solving societal issues in their schools and communities.” The learning experience is meant to spark greater interest in STEM subjects—science, technology, engineering, and math.

More than 1,800 middle- and high-school teams from across the country competed, with only 94 entries being awarded the title “Best in State.” The East Montpelier team earned a \$5000 award from the Verizon Foundation for the EMES PTNO and tablets for each of the students.

The team is now in the running for one of eight “Best in Nation” awards, selected by education and industry experts. Winners receive an additional \$15,000 and the opportunity to work with MIT Media Lab experts to bring the app to life.

To learn more about the Amazon River Dolphins and the Reuse-It App, go to <http://ard.kasulka.com/reuse-it/>.

U-32 Report

We face a very challenging budget outlook this year with an expected decrease in our student population, a sharp increase in student special needs, and additional state-mandated expenses for required software. At the same time, we are evolving to a personalized instruction and proficiency-based learning system that our teachers, administration, and board believe is best for our students. The details of our analysis, discussions, and decisions are in the Town Report

Please note that this year there is a potentially misleading accounting change due to state requirements regarding special education and transportation expenses that make it impossible to directly compare the proposed budget with prior years. This is a one-time accounting change which is explained in more detail in the Town Report. At the meeting next year we will again be able to compare “apples to apples.” The board greatly appreciates the support of our community in the education of our young people.

—Kari Bradley & Emily Goyette are current EM representatives on the U-32 school board

Town Weathervane

Due to lack of space, summaries of the minutes of public meetings may be found on the Signpost website at www.emSignpost.com.

MILESTONES

Births

- Sophie Lorraine Purchase, daughter, born Nov 11, 2016, to Melissa & David Purchase
- Elijah Henri Thongs, son, born Nov 12, 2016, to Sierra Wells & Russell Thongs
- Loki William Thomas, son, born Dec 16, 2016, to Ashley Hedges & Joseph Thomas
- Ewan Hastings Blackwell, son, born Dec 27, 2016, to Chelsea & Colin Blackwell
- Matilda Somers Graves, daughter, born Jan 2, 2017, to Sarah Graves & David Torres
- Hanaleia Belle Hartz, daughter, born Jan 7, 2017, to Aurina & Daniel Hartz
- Reginald Elliott Lindberg, son, born Jan 14, 2017, to Jenny Prosser & Sarah Lindberg

Deaths

- Luellen McDonagh died Nov 28, 2016, mother of Quinn McDonagh
- Linda Phillips died Nov 30, 2016, spouse of Albert Phillips
- Dennis Carver died Dec 31, 2017, spouse of Sherry Carver
- Roy Bair died Jan 11, 2017, spouse of Joanne Hill Bair
- Armonia (Val) Cueto died on Jan 23, 2017, mother of Jeff Cueto

Land Transfers

- Town of East Montpelier to John & Marcia Pauly, 5.5 acres on County Rd
- Miriam Antonovich, Trustee, to Diana Antonovich, 52 acres open land on North St
- Miriam Antonovich, Trustee, to Diana Antonovich, 1.75 acres open land on North St
- Dario & Darcy Cacicio to Cacicio Revocable Trust, single family dwelling & 5.1 acres on Center Rd
- William Jordan to Troy & Selina Hickman, single family dwelling & 10.6 acres on Horn of the Moon Rd
- Jessica Ellis to Jacqueline & Lawrence Blakely, mobile home & 0.25 acres on Sandy Pines Rd
- Anthony & Pamela Biron to Jeffrey Biron, easement, Quaker Hill Rd
- Jeffrey & Tanis Roberts to Village Home Corp, mobile home on Mugford Rd

- Village Homes Corp to Tanis & Jeffrey Roberts, mobile home on Mugford Rd
- Catherine Larned to Leslie Porreca & North Thomson, single family dwelling & 7.6 acres on Barnes Rd
- Kathleen Wilson to Ryan Wilson, single family dwelling & 1 acre on Barnes Rd
- Alice Walbridge to Thomas & Lynn Novak, single family dwelling & 5.95 acres on Putnam Rd
- William & Margaret Laporte, Trustees, to Zdravko & Tanya Vukoja, 10.8 acres open land on Towne Hill Rd
- Luellen McDonagh to Luellen McDonagh Real Estate Trust, single family dwelling & 1.88 acres on VT14S
- Ronald & Elizabeth Gingold to Edward & Marcia Blondin, mobile home on Robinson Rd
- Frederick & Gretchen Satink to Brian Preston & Kristin Brooks, single family dwelling & 11.4 acres on Quaker Rd
- Kevin & Crystal Williams to Michael Morse, mobile home on Sandy Pines Rd
- Duane Wells to David & Casandra Liebenow, 9.03 acres open land in Captain Kidd Development, East Hill Rd
- Steven & Bonnie Burkholder to Bonnie & Steven Burkholder Living Trust, single family dwelling & 7.3 acres on Horn of the Moon Rd
- Margery Lashua Heritage Trust to Gerald & Veronika Rokes, single family dwelling & 2.4 acres on County Rd
- Anthony & Jeanne Cassani to AG Solar East Montpelier LLC, 8.37 acres open land on US2
- Mark Moore & Marie Grause to Matthew & Mia Murphy, single family dwelling & 3.4 acres on North St
- Richard Meleady to Linda Meleady, single family dwelling & 12.51 acres, Partridge Run
- Coleman Parker to Clifton Rathburn & Sonya Shedd, single family dwelling & .34 acres on US14S
- Patricia Coughlin to Edward Mortimer, single family dwelling & 3.06 acres on Cherry Tree Hill Rd
- Estate of Horace Soule to Christopher Gendreau, multi-family dwelling w/2 units & .14 acres on VT14



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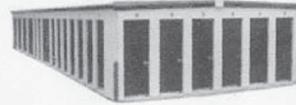
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- ✓ **Land Improvement:** Rototilling; Bushhogging; and Trail Work
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- ✓ **Excavation:** Site Work for Sonotube and Floating Slabs; Digging Underground Utility Lines; and Much More!

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CALENDAR

- Sat. Mar. 4, 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.** Pre-Town/
School District Forum, EMES
- Mon. Mar. 6, 6:00 p.m.** U-32 District Informational
Meeting, U-32, Room 131
- Tues. Mar. 7, 9:30 a.m.** Town Meeting, polls open
7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m., EMES
- Sat. May 6, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.** Green Up Day roadside trash
pick-up, for more info call Chris Racanelli at 225-6032
- Tuesdays, 6 p.m.** Bingo, Twin Valley Sr. Center,
for info call 223-3322

IMPORTANT DATES

- Mon. Mar. 6, 5:00 p.m.** deadline to return absentee ballots to
Town Office (may be returned to polling place on Mar 7)
- Thurs. Mar. 23, 6:00–7:30 p.m.** Rabies Clinic, EM Fire Dept.
Pets may be registered at the same time.
- Mon. April 3, 5:00 p.m.** Pet registration deadline, Town Office,
\$9.00 spayed/neutered \$13.00 not, current rabies vaccine required
- Mon. May 15, 5:00 p.m.** Property Tax Installment deadline,
Town Office. to avoid 8 percent penalty
- Mon. May 29,** Memorial Day, Town Office closed

The deadline for the next issue of the Signpost is March 30.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee
Development Review Board (DRB)
East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) Board
East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)
East Montpelier Fire District No. 1
East Montpelier Historical Society
East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)
Planning Commission (PC)
Recreation Board
Selectboard
U-32 School Board

as needed
1st Tues. 7:00 p.m.
3rd Mon. 5:30 p.m.
Every Tues. 7:00 p.m.
2nd Wed. 7:00 p.m.
3rd Mon. 7:00/6:00 p.m.
as needed
2nd Wed. 7:00 p.m.
2nd Wed. 6:30 p.m.
1st & 3rd Thurs. 7:00 p.m.
2nd Mon. 7:15 p.m.
1st & 3rd Mon. 6:30 p.m.
1st Wed. 6:00 p.m.

contact: blusig@aol.com /229-5441
Town Office Building
Elementary School
EMFD Community Room
EMFD Community Room
Four Corners Schoolhouse/E. Calais
contact: rhazel@ezcloud.com
Four Corners Schoolhouse
Elementary School, Art Room
Town Office Building
Elementary School
Town Office Building
U-32 School