

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency: Medical, Fire, Police	911
East Montpelier Fire & Rescue: Non-emergency Calls;	
Permits for Fireworks and Open Burning	225-6247
State Police (non-emergency)	229-9191
First Constable & Animal Control Officer: Sandy Conti	479-3169
Second Animal Control Officer: Elliott Morse	839-8723
Fire Chief & Fire Warden: Ty Rolland	229-1153
Game Warden (rabid animals, poaching, etc.)	229-9191
Town Garage: Road Foreman Mike Garand	223-5870
State-wide report of road conditions	800-ICY-ROAD
Elementary School	223-7936
U-32 High School	229-0321
Washington Central Supervisory Union	229-0553
State Rep. Dist. No. 7: Tony Klein	793-6032
Town Health Officer: Dave Grundy	476-4300
Town Service Officer: Rachael Grossman	223-3177
East Montpelier Post Office	223-2832
Town Offices	223-3313
Town Clerk Terri Conti	ext. 201
Town & Zoning Administrator Bruce Johnson ..	ext. 204
Town Listers Office	ext. 206
Town Treasurer/Tax Collector Don Welch	ext. 207

East Montpelier Fire Department and Ambulance Service

East Montpelier and Calais benefit from this combined service, staffed by about 40 volunteers from both towns. In 2015, EMFD responded to more than 400 calls for aid in medical situations, motor vehicle accidents, fires, and other emergencies. The towns provide most of the finances; fund-raising is also done by the fire-fighters and auxiliary. This active and essential team always welcomes new energy.



Town of East Montpelier
PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651
(802) 223-3313
eastmontpeliervt.org

What you need to know about



East Montpelier

When residents were asked on the 2011 town survey

"What do you like most about living in East Montpelier?"

the most common responses were:

"Sense of community."

"The rural character."

"Neighborliness." "Community involvement."

"The people: diversity and community spirit."

"Opportunities to gather: Rally Day, Town Meeting, postlucks."

"Commitment to conserve and actively farm the land."

"Engaged citizens; people value connectedness."

"Acceptance and integration of newcomers."

This booklet, first created in 2000 by a group of volunteers around the kitchen table of Wes and Jean Cate, is our way of fostering the things we do to make our lives thrive in this rural community of ours: connect, organize, nourish, nurture, grow, harvest, share. Everyone can make a contribution to the success of our town. Look for current information about community activities in the websites and newsletters of the Town of East Montpelier, the Front Porch Forum, "The Signpost," the schools, and various other organizations in these pages. And join in!

"I like the welcoming of newcomers – making one feel needed as well as part of the goings-on."

— JEAN CATE COMMUNITY FUND COMMITTEE, JANUARY 2016

Calendar of Town Happenings

For meeting dates and times, call the Town Offices at 223-3313 or visit the Town website at eastmontpelier.vt.org

<p>JANUARY</p> <p>1, New Year's Day: Town Offices closed</p> <p>Annual Dog Licenses are available for renewal</p> <p>Deadlines before Town Meeting to file petitions: 40 days for warned articles; 6th Monday for most local elective offices</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>30 days before Town Meeting: Town & School Warnings posted</p> <p>10 days before Town Meeting: Annual Town & School Reports mailed</p> <p>Wednesday before Town Meeting: Voter registration deadline 5pm</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>The week before Town Meeting Day: Informational Forums to discuss Australian Ballot items on Town, EMES, and U-32 warnings</p> <p>1st Tuesday: TOWN/SCHOOL MEETING DAY</p>
<p>APRIL</p> <p>1: Tax Assessment Date; Last day to renew Dog License without penalty</p>	<p>MAY</p> <p>1st Saturday, Green-Up Day: Clean up, free lunch</p> <p>Mid-May: Property tax final payment due</p> <p>Last Monday, Memorial Day: Town Offices closed</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>U-32 Graduation Day; EMES Graduation for 6th Graders</p>
<p>JULY</p> <p>4, Independence Day: Town Offices closed</p>	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>Property tax bills mailed</p> <p>16, Bennington Battle Day: Town Offices closed</p> <p>Wed. before Primary: Voter registration by 5pm</p> <p>4th Tues: Primary Election (even-numbered years)</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>1st Monday, Labor Day: Town Offices closed</p>
<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>Schools and Town budget-building meetings begin</p> <p>OCT/NOV: Wednesday before General Election: Voter registration deadline 5pm</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>Tuesday after 1st Monday (even-numbered years): General Election</p> <p>Veterans Day: Town Office closed</p> <p>Mid-November: Property tax due (1st installment)</p> <p>Thanksgiving & day after: Town Offices closed</p>	<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>25, Christmas Day: Town Offices closed</p>

Our History: Then & Now

2010 Census Population = 2,576

East Montpelier became a separate town on January 1, 1849. Prior to that date, our town was part of Montpelier. The village of Montpelier had been incorporated in 1818, and, as the burgeoning state capital, its residents felt they had little in common with the much larger section of the town devoted to farming. In fact, Montpelier Town Meetings were held in the old church in what is now East Montpelier Center, and the town folks, climbing Clay Hill on foot or with their wagons to attend the meetings, felt their interests were often voted down by the many farmers who populated the rest of the town. At the villagers' request, the Legislature approved separation.

Settlement patterns had become well established by 1848. In addition to the farms which were to be found throughout the town, the hamlet of East Montpelier Center and the villages of East Montpelier and North Montpelier became population centers. Churches were found in all three settlements and post offices were established in both East and North Montpelier.

From the earliest days, North Montpelier was noted for manufacturing. From time to time, large woolen mills produced yardage well into the 20th century. Here also musical instruments were made, and for a time in the early 1900s, it was the publishing home of a regional poetry magazine.

East Montpelier, known familiarly as the "East Village," was a trading center situated conveniently where north-south and east-west roads converged. In addition to the town hall, sawmills, and small manufactories, the Montpelier and Wells River Railroad went close by with a stop at "Fairmont" station thus providing easy access to the city for both farm products and people.

Yet farming continued to be the mainstay of the town's economy. By 1870, there were 189 operating farms in town. Over time, farming methods changed as new farm implements became available. Crops and animals changed, too. As the number of oxen and sheep waned, the number of cows increased. Gradually the princi-

pal farm product moved from cheese, to butter, and finally to fluid milk. But farm economics have not been kind to farmers, and today there remain only three dairy farms and several diversified farms.

The coming of the automobile and the consequent improvement in roads began to change the face of the town. Its closeness to Barre and Montpelier meant that folks could work "away" and still enjoy rural life. One-room schools could be consolidated and a regional high school established. One of the larger schools became the Municipal Building, where town records and offices can be found and where town committees meet.

Yet despite these changes which thrust the town into the larger life of society around it, East Montpelier citizens seem to want to maintain a strong rural feeling. More than 2,200 acres of land have been conserved never to be developed into housing tracts.

Townpeople stay in touch with each other in a number of ways. There's the town website at eastmontpeliervt.org where official information is posted. And everyone receives the East Montpelier *Signpost*, a free newsletter that features articles about local people, current happenings, and our history. Back issues are posted on the newsletter's website at emsignpost.com.

Front Porch Forum, an e-mail newsletter for town residents, is a lively online place to quickly share information with neighbors. Postings range from lost dogs to carpools to free furniture to road work updates: frontporchforum.com. Other websites with information about our town are the East Montpelier Elementary School at emontpelierschool.org and the East Montpelier Historical Society at eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org.

In addition, many neighborhood groups gather for potluck meals and to stay in touch with each other. Annual Town-wide events include Green Up Day on the first Saturday in May, including a free lunch at the elementary school sponsored by the Jean Cate Community Fund committee. And, of course, there's Town Meeting (see page 10).

Phone: 223-3313 • Fax: 223-4467

Town Clerk, ext. 201: eastmonttct@comcast.net

Town & Zoning Administrator, ext. 204: eastmontadmin@comcast.net

Board of Listers, ext. 206: eastmontlstr@comcast.net

Town Treasurer/Tax Collector, ext. 207: eastmonttr@comcast.net

Mailing address: P.O. Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651

Monday – Thursday 9:00 to 5:00

Friday 9:00 to 12:00 noon

Closed on official holidays (see Calendar on page 3)

The Municipal Office Building is in the East Village near the junction of Routes 2 and 14 (see the map on pp. 8–9). Our Town Clerk's activities involve recording deeds and managing vital records, maintaining the voter checklist, supervising elections, and issuing various licenses. The Town Treasurer collects property taxes. The Town Administrator is the head support staff to the Selectboard. Listers assess and maintain the town's real estate Grand List. Contact the Zoning Administrator about permits for land development, subdivisions, building projects, signs, and commercial uses.

Some of What You Can Find at the Town Offices

- Land Records: Deeds, Property history, Tax information
- Certificates of Births, Deaths, Marriages
- Voter registration applications
- Absentee ballots
- Petitions to run for office and warn items at Town Meeting
- Licenses for Marriage, Dogs, Fishing, Hunting, Posting Land
- State Liquor and Tobacco (requires Selectboard approval)
- Zoning permit applications and Zoning Regulations
- Town Reports, Town Plan, Town Bylaws and Ordinances
- Maps of Town Roads, Local Historic Sites, and Town Trails
- Information on Recycling and Septic System Maintenance
- Vermont Fishing and Hunting Regulations and Information
- Meeting Minutes of Town Boards and Committees

- Notary Services: Free of charge
- Historical Records of Town Residents
- Green Mountain Passports: \$2 pass to State Parks for seniors
- Back issues of the *Signpost*, our local free newsletter
- Local History Books for Sale
 - Across the Onion, A History of East Montpelier*
 - Cemeteries of East Montpelier*
 - Revolutionary War Soldiers of East Montpelier*
- East Montpelier Historical Society Exhibits in the lobby case

More about Taxes

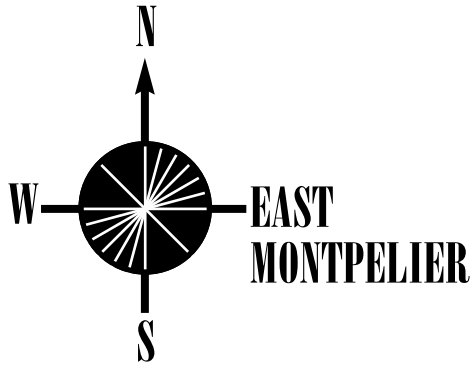
- Property tax bills are mailed in August; installment payments are due in mid-November and mid-May. The Treasurer will accept partial payments any time before they are due; mailed payments must be received by the due date regardless of postmark.
- If you sell your house, you are responsible for sending the tax bill to the new owner.

More about Permits

- Zoning Permit: Required for any land or building development, including subdividing a lot, adding onto an existing building, beginning a new structure: house, barn, trailer, garage, storage shed, swimming pool, sign, etc. Apply to Zoning Administrator.
- Fireworks & Open Burning Permits: Apply to the Fire Warden.
- Septic Permits: Wastewater permits are required for all development and are issued by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. For information, call 476-0190.

More about Licenses

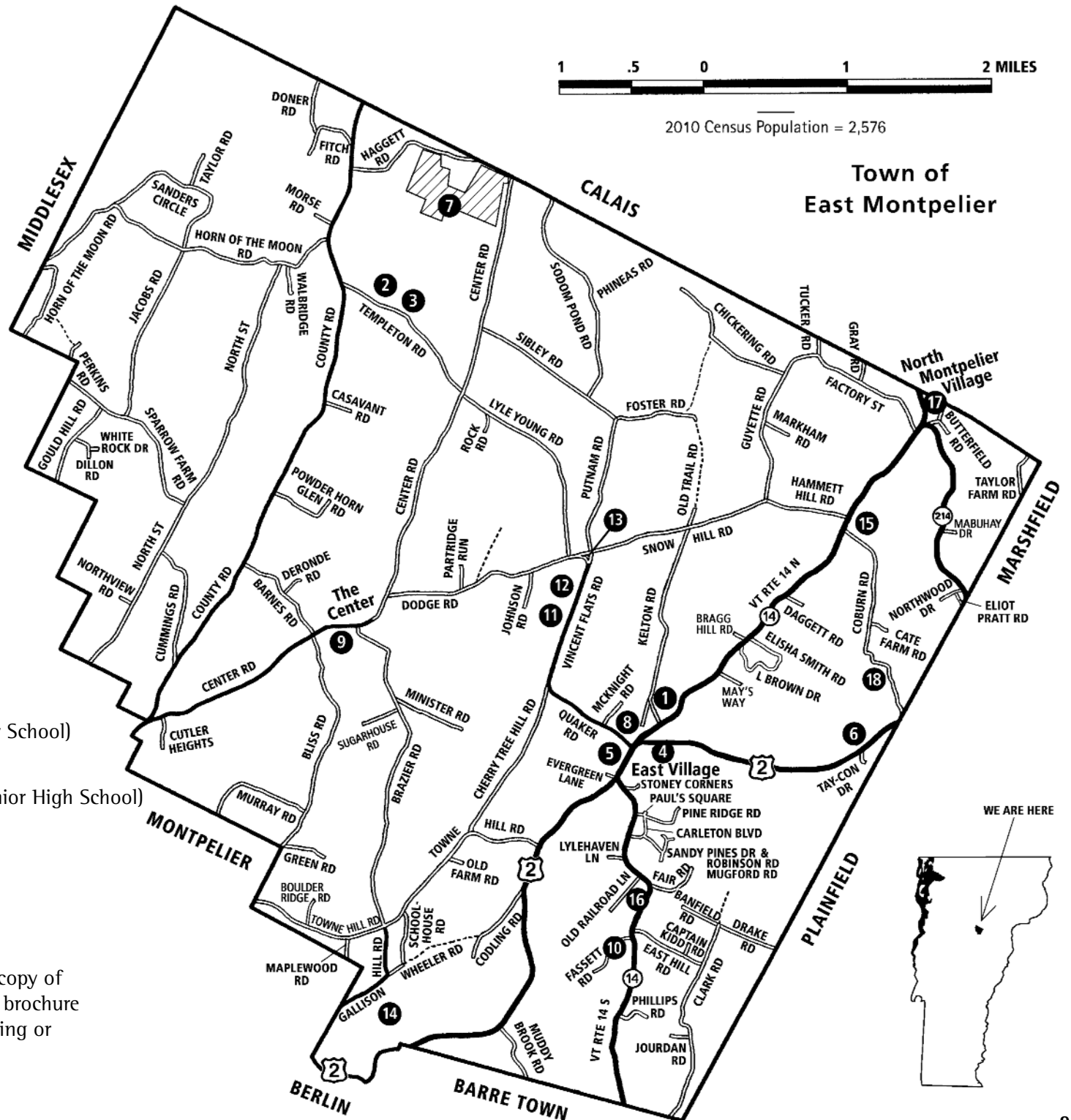
- Dog Licenses, renewable annually January 1 through April 1, require a copy of a current rabies certificate.
- Licenses are required for hunting and fishing in town (also sold at local businesses). As per a conservation agreement between the town and the landowner, fifteen annual hunting permits are granted by lottery for the Mallory Brook area: applications are available in September; the drawing is the first week of October.



2010 Census Population = 2,576

Town of East Montpelier

- 1 Municipal Office Building
- 2 Town Garage
- 3 Fire Station (Templeton Rd.)
- 4 Fire Station (Village Acres Rd.)
- 5 East Montpelier Post Office
- 6 Twin Valley Senior Center
- 7 Town Forest
- 8 Old Brick Church (Church St.)
- 9 Old Meeting House
- 10 Crossroads Christian Church
- 11 Recreation Field
- 12 EMES (East Montpelier Elementary School)
- 13 Four Corners Schoolhouse
- 14 U-32 (Union District 32 Junior/Senior High School)
- 15 Orchard Valley School
- 16 Central Vermont Humane Society
- 17 North Montpelier Pond
- 18 Coburn Road Quarry Pond



For more points of interest, pick up a copy of the "Historic Sites of East Montpelier" brochure available at the Municipal Office Building or at eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org

Town and School Meeting

Like other Vermont towns, East Montpelier governs itself at Town Meeting. The School Meeting is held the same day—always the first Tuesday of March at the Elementary School.

The Town and School each have their own **Warning of Articles** (typically 15 to 25 of them) which voters may approve, reject, or modify. Some Articles are discussed and decided on the floor, with School Board and Selectboard members present to answer questions. Other Articles in both meetings, as well as officials to be elected, are decided by Australian Ballot, which means they are voted on by paper ballot in a separate room at voting booths.

The best opportunities to discuss warned articles before Town Meeting are the **Town/School Forum** and the **U-32 Budget Information Meeting**, both held during the ten days prior to Town Meeting. To help shape the Articles on the Warning, citizens are encouraged to attend the budget-building meetings of the School Boards and Selectboard held during the months of November and December.

There is more to Town Meeting than just voting. We gather to hear reports of our officers. As we discuss issues, we learn how townspeople are thinking and generate new ideas. Important changes are sometimes made. Whether we agree or disagree with a proposal, Town Meeting is our best chance to speak our minds. And there's the enjoyment and fun of Town Meeting. Folks we haven't seen since last Town Meeting may sit next to us at the noon potluck.

The **TOWN REPORT** is produced by the Town Auditors and is sent to all registered voters' households ten days before Town Meeting Day. It includes financial statements, reports of the town officers and committees, all Articles on the Warnings to be voted on Town Meeting Day, candidates for office, town and school budgets, the town's charitable giving, names of appointed and elected officials, annual reports of various committees and regional groups, vital statistics, and more.

■ ELECTED POSITIONS

Town Clerk	Listers (3 positions)
Selectboard (5 positions)	Planning Commissioners (9)
Auditors (3)	Justices of the Peace (10)
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Cemetery Commissioners (5)
Town Moderator	School Moderator
Elementary School Directors (5)	First Constable
U-32 Junior/Senior High School Directors (2)	

■ APPOINTED POSITIONS

Town Treasurer	Development Review Board
Town Administrator	Zoning Administrator
Assistant Town Clerk	Assistant Town Treasurer
Town Health Officer	Town Service Officer
Animal Control Officer	Town Fire Warden
Emergency Management Coordinator	Town Tree Warden
Solid Waste District Representative	Forest Committee
Wrightsville Beach Rec. District Rep.	Four Corners Schoolhouse Assoc. Rep.
Green Up Coordinator	Energy Committee
State Police Community Advisory Board	Regional Planning, Town Reps (3)
Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	Funding Request Study Committee
Revolving Loan Advisory Committee	Recreation Board
Capital Improvement Committee	Village Committee

HOW TO TAKE PART

- **To Run for Office:** Candidate must be on the East Montpelier Voter Checklist and needs 1% of the legally qualified voters' signatures on a petition for office. Petition forms are available at the Town Office. Signed petitions are due by the 6th Monday before Town Meeting Day (in late January).
- **To Submit an Article for the Warning:** You can either request the Selectboard or School Board to include the Article or get 5% of the legally qualified voters' signatures on a petition, due 40 days before Town Meeting Day.

Town Committees

For committee meeting dates, check the *Signpost* newsletter, call the Town Offices at 223-3313, or visit eastmontpeliervt.org

Running even a small town like East Montpelier requires a group effort. One way to get involved is to join or attend meetings of a town committee. Everyone is always welcome.

- The **SELECTBOARD** is the town's legislative body, responsible for the operation of town government and maintenance of town roads.
- The **SCHOOL BOARDS** are discussed on page 14.
- The **PLANNING COMMISSION** creates the five-year Town Plan and our local Zoning Regulations, which combine our Plan with State Land Use and Development statutes to standardize the permitting process.
- The **DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD** holds local permit hearings and reviews appeals of decisions of the Zoning Administrator.
- The **BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY** (Justices of the Peace, Selectboard, and Town Clerk) assists with elections, voting applications, and appeals of property assessments by the **BOARD OF LISTERS**.
- Care and upkeep of the town's cemeteries fall to the **CEMETERY COMMISSION**. Annual activities include the cleaning and repair of broken stones, fence repair, painting, mowing, and signage.
- The **TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE** oversees the maintenance of the Town Forest. It also helps the Town to decide on roadside cutting and to maintain trees on the School grounds.
- Preserving our open, scenic, agricultural spaces while keeping the economic interest of the town in mind, the **CONSERVATION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE** works with other conservation groups to recommend the allocation of the Town's Conservation Fund to purchase development rights from local landowners.
- Each year, a number of organizations and service agencies ask for funding from Vermont towns. Rather than deliberate on individual requests at Town Meeting, East Montpelier established a **FUNDING REQUEST COMMITTEE** to review all applications and make recommendations which are then published in the town report and voted on at Town Meeting.

- The **RECREATION BOARD** sponsors activities for town residents, including swimming lessons, and maintains the Recreation Field.
- The **EAST MONTPELIER VILLAGE COMMITTEE** is dedicated to enhancing our Town's primary village center as a vibrant and attractive place to live, work, and do business.
- The **FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOCIATION**, through its Board of Trustees, maintains one of the town's original one-room schoolhouses as a community building available for use by all residents and community groups. All town voters are members.
- The **EAST MONTPELIER TRAILS, INC.** works with the Town, landowners and trail users to create and maintain a network of recreation trails – connecting a proposed 17-mile loop.
- The **EAST MONTPELIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, together with Calais, sponsors a program of lectures and activities related to local history. Visit: eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org
- Started in 1990, the **EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST** is a free bimonthly newsletter created by volunteers to keep residents informed about people and happenings around town. Back issues are available at emsignpost.com
- The **EAST MONTPELIER ENERGY COMMITTEE** explores opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of private and town-owned buildings and vehicles. Their working groups include Energy and Weatherization, Financing, Transportation, Town Facilities, Food, **NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS**. Contact: Dave Grundy at 476-4300.
- The **JEAN CATE COMMUNITY FUND COMMITTEE** was created in 2004 to honor Jean's vision and service. Now also in memory of Wes Cate and others who have made our town a better place, its mission is "To encourage and support community-building activities in East Montpelier." They regularly host a free lunch on Green Up Day and a coffee hour before the Town/School Forum.
- The **EAST MONTPELIER SENIOR LIVING INITIATIVE** promotes safe and affordable housing for seniors living in our community.

Schools and Child Services

East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) 223-7936

EMES has about 250 students in pre-school through grade 6. There is a library, a gym, music and art rooms, and several playing fields adjoining the Town's recreation field. The School Board has five members. emontpelierschool.org

Union District 32 Junior-Senior High School (U-32) . . 229-0321

U-32 has more than 800 students, grades 7-12. East Montpelier has two members on the seven-member board of proportional representation from the five towns it serves (Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, and Worcester). U-32 has strong music, drama, art, sports programs, and excellent academics. u32.org

Washington Central Supervisory Union (WCSU) 229-0553

Provides leadership and administrative support to U-32, the elementary schools, and pre-school programs of the five towns it serves.

Parent Teacher Neighbor Organization (PTNO) 223-7936

PTNO sponsors programs and fundraisers which support elementary school activities.

Orchard Valley School 456-7400

An independent Waldorf school. Website at ovws.org

Community Connections 223-3456

Year-round learning for children and adults. Includes academics, sports, summer camp, Girls/Boyz First!! mentoring program, after-school workshops, and more, regardless of ability to pay. Licensed after-school care provider. communityconnections.us

Family Center of Washington County 262-3292

Programs for young children and their families. fcwcvt.org

Scholarships: Bequest of Carlton C. Smith for town residents pursuing Associate or Bachelor's Degrees; contact the Rotary Club of Montpelier. Also, consult school guidance counselors.

More Resources

Recreation Field: Baseball and soccer fields, adjacent to the elementary school. Also available: Playing fields and trails at U-32.

Town Forest: 96.4 wooded acres; trail entrance on Haggett Road.

East Montpelier Trails: Miles of permanently protected multi-use trails. Call 223-2319 or go to emtrails.org for a map.

East Montpelier Gully Jumpers maintains 46 miles of private snowmobile trails in the VAST network; visit gullyjumpers.com

Wrightsville Beach: Five miles north of Montpelier on Rt. 12 is a public swimming area operated and maintained by four member towns: East Montpelier, Middlesex, Montpelier, and Worcester.

Fishing at North Montpelier Pond: State owned and maintained access located on Route 14N in North Montpelier Village.

Coburn Road Quarry Pond: Open to pedestrians for walking, swimming, and observing wildlife in a beautiful naturalizing area.

Twin Valley Senior Center: Delivers meals-on-wheels to seniors, sponsors health clinics, community meals, and conducts various programs at the center on US Route 2. Call 223-3322.

Local Libraries: Access books, magazines, CDs, computers, more.
Kellogg-Hubbard Library Montpelier: 223-3338; kellogghubbard.org
Aldrich Public Library Barre: 476-7550; aldrichpubliclibrary.org

Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District: Recycling, trash disposal. Call 229-9383 or go to cvswmd.org

Central Vermont Humane Society: Companion animal shelter and resource center. Call 476-3811 or visit centralvermonthumane.org

Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice: Full service not-for-profit Visiting Nurse Association. 223-1878; cvhhh.org

Central Vermont Council on Aging: Information and Resources for Seniors. Helpline: 1-800-642-5119. cvcoa.org

Capstone Community Action: Head Start, Emergency Food, Crisis Fuel, Home Weatherization and other support services. 479-1053.

Local Businesses: Featured in "Signpost" articles and advertising. Please patronize local businesses—it's good for our community.