



# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXV—Number Three

January/February 2015



TERRY J. ALLEN

## East Montpelier Postmaster: Alan Whitcomb

by Norman Hill

Our postmaster, Alan Whitcomb, is the reason why it is appropriate to call the East Montpelier Post Office the Postal Service. His clean-cut black hair is immaculately groomed. He wears a crisp shirt, often with a tie, and greets most everybody who walks through the front door of the post office with a smile and some version of "How may I help you?" His expressive eyebrows confirm his sincerity. Just before 12:30, I met Alan at the post office for this interview because the counter is closed from 12:30 to 2:30 during the week. As there were no customers, he greeted

*Continued on page 8*

### IN THIS ISSUE

2 — Run for Office

4 — Inside EMES

5 — E.M. Author: Nick Neddo

9 — Treasurer Appointed

## Tony Klein & Jennifer Boyer

by Robby Porter

In 1972 a long-haired New York City cab driver returned to his hometown, Croton-on-Hudson, for a holiday party. He was a good-looking young man, quick-witted and energetic. The party was full of neighbors and friends of friends and soon an old high-school classmate trapped him in a conversation. On the other side of the room he saw a pretty woman with a black lab dog. "I went straight across to her like an arrow," he says.



TERRY J. ALLEN

The woman was more cautious, given his rough-around-the-edges New York City style. "He was on probation with me for awhile," she says. He passed his probationary period because, as Tony says, "Everything changed when I met her. It was love, like a kick in the stomach, you know."

The woman, Jennifer Boyer, was a ceramics student at Goddard College. "They gave us good, real-world training at Goddard. Unlike a big university where a tech would get everything ready for the students, we learned to prepare the clay, set up a kiln, check for gas leaks and fix them if necessary." As part of her program at Goddard she was doing a year of work and study with a professional potter in New York when she met the cab driver, Tony Klein.

They returned to Vermont together and settled in Cabot. Jennifer started her pottery business and Tony got a job as the

*Continued on page 10*

# Signpost Volunteers

**Terry J. Allen: Design & Photography**  
229-0303 tallen@igc.org

**Jennifer Boyer: Webmaster**  
223-8926 vtpots@gmail.com

**Alex Brown: Production, Mailing,  
Photography**  
223-0430 alex@printmark.net

**Rhoda Carroll: Copy Editor**  
229-0037 rhoda@rhodacarroll.com

**Charlie Catlin: Records Editor**  
229-4273 shcharlie@hotmail.com

**Rhoda Chickering: Town Records**  
229-5005 chickeringrhoda@gmail.com

**Ed Day: Proofreader**  
229-2518 edjoday@ezcloud.com

**Robin Gannon: EMES Reporter**  
rgannon@u32.org

**Darryl Garland: Design**  
272-4962 redgarlanddesign@gmail.com

**Rachael Grossman: E.M. Eats Coordinator**  
223-3177 garlicmountain@gmail.com

**Patty & Mike Hambro: Business  
Managers**  
229-4045 michaelhambro@yahoo.com

**Elaine Manghi: Features Co-editor**  
229-5811 maplenutbread@hotmail.com

**Edie Miller: Managing Editor**  
229-0677 signpostteam@comcast.net

**Carolyn Pastore: Copy Editor**  
223-7463 cwpas44@yahoo.com

**Barbara Ploof: Copy Coordination**  
223-6934 signpostbcp@hotmail.com

**Michelle Singer: Inside EMES  
Coordinator & Copy Editor**  
223-6186 jmsinger98@hotmail.com

**Wendy Soliday: Features Co-editor**  
229-9594 wsoliday@aol.com

**Printed by L. Brown and Sons Printing**  
476-3164

# Top of the Signpost

Driving to Thanksgiving dinner this year, I experienced one of those feel-good moments that unexpectedly pop up, warming body and soul. As I stopped at the toll booth near Manchester, NH, the attendant informed me that "the nice man in front" had paid for my toll. I was already in a great frame of mind in anticipation of seeing my far-flung family and thinking about the great meal we would share, so it was very easy to ask the attendant to do the same for the person following me. A shared gesture and giving back can really make your day.

Another way to give back is available closer to home—right here in East Montpelier. Town Meeting is coming up soon, and with it the opportunity to elect the people who will keep East Montpelier buzzing. Below you see the list of officers we will elect on March 3. There are so many ways you can take part and contribute while also meeting new people and enjoying yourself. Think about it. Use your skills and talents to strengthen and maintain our small community. Get involved!

If you do become a candidate, please submit a statement to the *Signpost* introducing yourself and what contributions you hope to make. Send to Barbara Ploof no later than January 26, 2015, at signpostbcp@hotmail.com or 255 Barnes Road, Montpelier, VT 05602. Statements will appear in the *Signpost* prior to Town Meeting.

— Edie Miller

## Officers to be Elected on March 3 – Town Meeting Day

Town Moderator, 1-year term	Second Constable, 1-year term
School District Moderator, 1-year term	Cemetery Commissioner, 5-year term
Town Clerk, 3-year term	Planning Commissioner, 2 of 3-year term
Selectboard Member, 3-year term	Planning Commissioner, 3-year term
Selectboard Member, 2-year term	Planning Commissioner, 3-year term
Lister, 3-year term	Planning Commissioner, 3-year term
Auditor, 3-year term	EMES Director, 3-year term
First Constable, 1-year term	EMES Director, 2-year term



## Goodbye, Thanks, and Welcome

After many years of outstanding work as a *Signpost* volunteer, Lori Martin Buley has asked to step back from active involvement. Although we'd prefer to forbid this change, we'll graciously extend a giant "Thank you." In large part, Lori has shaped the look of today's *Signpost* as a talented design and layout person. In addition to creating our periodic surveys, Lori has contributed innumerable excellent ideas as the *Signpost* has evolved over the years.

Endings and beginnings are part of the natural cycle of things, so as this new year dawns, the *Signpost* welcomes three new volunteers: Darryl Garland will soon put his years of marketing savvy to work on behalf of the *Signpost* while Rachael Grossman will be the coordinator of the new East Montpelier Eats column that will appear periodically throughout the year. And returning to *Signpost* service after a hiatus of several years is Elaine Manghi who will help put together our series of featured individuals and businesses. Welcome all.

# Changing of the Guard at Community Connections

## All in the East Montpelier Family

by Deborah Wolf

As of November 1, 2014, Alex Rob succeeded Ginny Burley, founding director of Community Connections. The U-32 and University of Chicago graduate spent 17 years in the finance field before volunteering in his children's classroom motivated a career change. In recent years, in addition to continued volunteer work at EMES, he has been a school coordinator for North Branch Nature Center's ECO program, the EM site coordinator for Community Connections, as well as playing a leadership role on the E.M. Recreation Board and in skating organizations in Central Vermont.

Under the 14-year leadership of Ginny Burley, Community Connections has provided high-quality after-school enrichment programs to the children and families of Montpelier, Calais, Berlin, East Montpelier, Middlesex and Worcester. The programs she and her staff have birthed and nurtured include the alternative path to graduation, the summer food program, the Kellogg Hubbard peace monument, and at Montpelier High School the greenhouse, ultimate frisbee, and Chill. It was Burley's initiative that led to Community Connections' collaboration with Spiral



Ginny & Alex

DEBORAH WOLF

International for two summers of international camps with visiting Chinese students and local teens. Burley is a state-wide leader in afterschool programs and has represented the state at the legislature and in Washington, D.C.

Rob acknowledges that Community Connections faces many of the same challenges as the schools it serves and notes that it "is in a unique position to partner with both schools and families. Our...grassroots network of experienced site coordinators at local schools allows us to understand and react to the specific needs of each community. Pressures on school budgets impact our programs at the middle and high-school levels where we rely heavily on funding from the taxpayers. We must find a way to fund these important programs that works for both the families we serve and the taxpayers."

Congratulations to Alex Rob and Ginny Burley as they move into their respective new challenges.

## Who Misses Rally Day? I Do! Help Revive Rally Day for 2015

by Becky Brown

I attended Rally Day for many years with my children and put in a few years as a volunteer on the committee. It was a great community event that did not happen the last two years due to lack of volunteer participation.

If you are looking for a great way to support and be active in the town without a huge time commitment please consider volunteering for the committee or the event. It is a fun event for all ages and opens up many opportunities to meet and get to know your neighbors.

You can contact me by email at [emrallyday@hotmail.com](mailto:emrallyday@hotmail.com) if you are interested in learning more about Rally Day or how you can help to ensure we have a Rally Day 2015.

## Be a Mentor

Girls/Boyz First Mentoring is looking for a male mentor for an 11-year-old East Montpelier boy. He likes to play chess and checkers, read and write adventure stories, play legos, and go on scavenger hunts. His favorite subject is math and he loves music, too. He needs help building self-esteem, as he has had hard family issues in the past few years.

For more information about becoming a GBF mentor, please go to <http://www.communityconnections.us/ProgramInfo/girlsboyz/GirlsBoyz.html> or call Wendy Freundlich at 229-4798.



# Inside EMES: Library & Technology

by Michelle A.L. Singer &  
Arlyn Brucoli

When you walk into the new library at EMES, it looks much like school libraries have always looked: there are shelves, books, tables, and a sunny area to sit and read in. Kids come into the library every week to browse and check out books, and be read to. They love the book return slot and the new area for puppets and games. Arlyn Brucoli, EMES librarian and media specialist, still reads to kids and helps them find books. But she does so much more.

The new library is now at the front of the building, just to the left of the main entrance. The big picture window with the good sunny reading spot looks out to the front of the school and you will often see kids there when you enter the building, reading or sometimes huddled in a group looking intensely at something. If you investigated further, you might discover a group of third and fourth graders discussing how to program their Lego robot to accomplish a task. They might be building their robot or discussing modifications to its programming.

Or maybe they are working with an application that allows them to explore the Spanish language. They have also been known to make digital books: designing, writing, and adding their voices to their own creations. The library, still a central resource and important touchstone of the elementary school, is also a launching pad for the dizzying and dazzling possibilities of the age of technology.

That means that many librarians these days are also technology integration or media specialists, people who promote the use of technologies to support student achievement as well as help teachers to find relevant materials to be used as teaching aids. Arlyn Brucoli was actually a technology integration specialist first and became a librarian after. Her job covers a wide swath, from a monthly Dorothy Canfield Fisher Readers' Club to "squishy circuits" exploration of electricity with home-made playdough. Arlyn helps kids use the computerized catalog system for books, learn to type on the computer following a teaching program, or complete a class assignment with Google Earth. She also goes into classrooms with laptops and tablets to help students complete projects there. She attends conferences to stay up on the latest programs and applications as well as keeping up on new ink-and-paper books for the shelves. Her skills and knowledge are vast. Here is what she had to say about her work, in her own words when I asked her, "What does it mean to be a librarian and technology integration specialist at EMES and what do you love about the job?"



**AB:** Being a librarian and technology integration specialist at EMES allows me to work with students and teachers to support 21st-century learning. I support kids as they explore ideas, get lost in books, and learn new ways to express their understandings. The best thing about my job is that there is no one best thing—every day is different, but every day there are kids having wonderful ideas, kids excited about reading, kids building and creating, and kids

expressing their thoughts and discussing their thinking with others.

**MALS:** What is different about school libraries now than 20 years ago and what has stayed the same?

**AB:** I used to volunteer in my school library when I was in high school and many aspects of being in a library today are the same as they were back in my volunteer library days. At the heart of libraries is curiosity. Needing a good book to read and finding out all the different ways that books can excite and inspire you—that has stayed the same. Wondering about ideas and organisms in our own back yard and having resources to find answers and bigger questions are what libraries have always been about. Some of the resources and the ways that we approach exploring ideas are different. I did not have robots or ponder design principles when I was in elementary school. I wrote and shared my work as a student, but not beyond my classroom. I was encouraged to think and find inspiration in books, but when I was growing up I think students were looking for the right answer as opposed to thinking they could figure it out. Now students learn not only how to find reliable information, but also how to apply it and figure out solutions to challenges.

**MALS:** We know why books and reading are important. How is the work kids are doing with technology important to their education?

**AB:** Students need strong communication and collaboration skills in the 21st century. Being able to express ideas and engage in respectful discourse with others are essential skills—whether those others are in the same room or across the world. Technology skills support research, teamwork, and communication. I don't know what the questions are that our students will need to be able to answer in their lives, but I know that if they have the skills to answer questions, consider alternative solutions, work with others, and share their thinking, they will be better able to respond to those unknowns.

— Michelle A.L. Singer is a writer & editor living in E.M. with her family.

# East Montpelier Author: Nicholas Neddo

by Carolyn Shapiro

Nick is a sixth-generation Vermonter who has been making art since he could first pick up a crayon. He grew up exploring the wetlands, forests, and fields of Vermont's bioregions and developed a profound curiosity, respect, and love for the community of life around him. Nick's interests as a young teenager became his life-long pursuits: the natural world, Stone Age technology (popularly known as primitive skills), and creating art.

One of Nick's life-long ambitions has been to write and illustrate a book. About a year ago, an adult student, after taking one of Nick's basket-making classes, talked about Nick's work to an editor at Quarry Books. That contact culminated in a contract for Nick to complete the type of book he had been contemplating for years.

The end result, *The Organic Artist*, is available locally as of January 1. In it Nick discusses how to identify, collect, and process the materials for art-making and illustrates the use of these materials. In addition, a beautiful series of photographs makes the processes easy to understand and duplicate.

Trusting the inherent value of these skills, he embraces them with a ravenous appetite fueled by a genuine love of the living world and the creative process. He has traveled the country extensively, visiting the last great wildernesses, seeking traditional skills, and experiencing the landscape's majesty, common themes in his artwork.

Nick is a teacher at Roots School located in Bradford, Vermont, as well as other venues. One of the courses he created for teenagers combined his passion for making art and for the natural world. It was a week-long summer camp to lure teenagers into the woods where they made their own



SUSAN TEARE

charcoal, pens, inks, ink wells, paper, and created their own art. The camp was very successful.

Although Nick has been teaching wilderness survival and living skills, tracking, drawing, and nature awareness professionally since 2000, he considers himself a perpetual student.

—Carolyn Shapiro, an artist herself, lives in White Pine Co-housing here in EM. Nick is the partner of her daughter Sarah. She has enjoyed learning from Nick's skills as a naturalist and artist and is eager to share his new book with others.

## TVSC Thriving in New Location

by Rita Copeland, Executive Director

Six months in its new home on Route 2 in East Montpelier, the Twin Valley Senior Center and its users are very pleased with the central location, good parking, and handicapped accessibility. The additional space allows for a clinic room where foot exams and blood pressure checks are available. The commercial kitchen gets extensive use as we prepare meals served on site as well as for our Meals on Wheels program. Over 4000 meals have been served at the new center in recent months. Our dining/activity room hosts all manner of social activities and events. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays a free bus service picks up seniors at their homes so they can spend several hours at the center participating

in exercise classes, games, puzzles, and movies.

Because there are no membership fees at TVSC, our fundraising activities are very important. They include a special meal to eat in or be taken out the last Sunday of every month. Call Susan at 223-6954 for a reservation. Our recent New England Boiled Dinner and Hunters' Breakfast were great successes.

We encourage you to support TVSC not only with your donations but also your involvement. We are always looking for participants and for volunteers. We especially appreciated the gardening efforts of so many who donated fresh vegetables to us this summer and fall.

We are here to help seniors remain independent and healthy in their homes. Contact us at 223-3322 or [www.twinvalleyseniors.org](http://www.twinvalleyseniors.org).

## Town Offices

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651  
Phone: 802-223-3313  
Office Hours: Mon–Thurs 9 AM–5 PM  
Friday 9 AM–12 PM

**Town Clerk:** Terri Conti  
[eastmonttct@comcast.net](mailto:eastmonttct@comcast.net)

**Town Treasurer:** Don Welch  
[eastmontrr@comcast.net](mailto:eastmontrr@comcast.net)

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

**Collector of Delinquent Taxes:**  
Karen Gramer, [karengramer@comcast.net](mailto:karengramer@comcast.net)

**Fire Permits:** EMFD 225-6247

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

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

**Listers:** Rob Chickering, Putnam Clayton,  
Ross Hazel 223-3313 x206,  
[eastmontlstr@comcast.net](mailto:eastmontlstr@comcast.net)

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

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

### Selectboard

Seth Gardner, Chair  
[sethgardner@hotmail.com](mailto:sethgardner@hotmail.com)

Carl Etnier Steve Sparrow  
Kimberly Swazey Casey Northrup

### Planning Commission

Jean Vissering, Chair, 223-3262

### Development Review Board

Richard Curtis, Chair  
[rcurtis841@comcast.net](mailto:rcurtis841@comcast.net)

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

Kari Bradley, [kbradley@u32.org](mailto:kbradley@u32.org)  
Emily Goyette, [egoyette@u32.org](mailto:egoyette@u32.org)

### Elementary School

Rubin Bennett, Chair  
[rbennett@thatitguy.com](mailto:rbennett@thatitguy.com)

Kimberly Kendall Priscilla Gilbert  
Stephen Looke Flor Diaz-Smith

### State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032  
[twk@tonyklein.com](mailto:twk@tonyklein.com)

## Town Weathervane

### MILESTONES

#### Births

- Kelsey Lynn Dunkling, daughter, born Sept. 5, 2014, to Krystle & Jordan Dunkling
- Adelyn Elizabeth Lunde, daughter, born Sept. 6, 2014, to Meaghan Lynch & Gunnar Lunde
- Fiona Elizabeth Green, daughter, born Oct. 27, 2014, to Erin & Zachary Green

#### Marriages

- Elizabeth Bevins & Jason Cote-Wong, Sept. 27, 2014

#### Deaths

- Anna McSweeney died Oct. 6, 2014, mother of David McSweeney
- William Bruzzesi died Oct. 21, 2014
- Joseph Michael Laquerre died Oct. 25, 2014, son of Jeff Laquerre & the late Deborah Laquerre, brother of Jarrett, grandson of Joey Laquerre, Sr.

#### Land Transfers

- Alan Lendway, Stephen Ribolini, & Blueberry Assoc. to Harper Properties, commercial building & 1.58 acres, US2
- Alan Lendway & Stephen Ribolini to Winterwood Timber Frames, 3.5 acres open land
- Wayne & Helen Clarke, Trustees, to Seth Gardner, single family dwelling, farm buildings, and 212 acres, Codling Rd
- Fecteau Homes to Heather Grant & Sean Luster, mobile home, Fair Rd
- Judith Winant, Trustee, Laura Williams Family Trust to Ilene Levitt, single family dwelling & 0.91 acres, Maplewood Rd
- John & Sue Copeland to State of VT Agency of Transportation, easement, VT14
- Mark & Susan Stephen to Daniel Cowan, single family dwelling & 0.51 acres, US2
- Benjamin Tamsen to Benjamin Feld & Danielle Heaney, single family dwelling & 7.03 acres, Gray Rd
- Corine Nicholson to Heath Summerlin, 8.38 acres open land, Factory St
- James & Sally Olmsted to Charles & Susan Grigg, single family dwelling & 3 acres, Brazier Rd
- Bonnie Corcoran to Wallace & Claire Hinch, mobile home, Robinson Rd
- Carolyn Sieven to Carolyn Sieven Trust, single family dwelling & 3 acres, Daggett Rd
- Helen Witham Trust to Hall Living Trust, 5.2 acres open land, Bliss Rd
- Helen Witham Trust to Bradley Witham, single family dwelling & 11.8 acres, Bliss Rd
- Bradley Witham to Carroll & Joan Witham, 44 acres open land, Bliss Rd

• David Blosser & Sally Redpath to Robert Onne & Jeanne Malachowski, single family dwelling & 10.28 acres, Towne Hill Rd

• Douglas & Mary Hull to David & Jennifer McKnight Luples, 14 acres open land, Horn of the Moon Rd

• Carol Sanders to Erin & Zachary Green, mobile home, Sandy Pines Rd

• Linda Janawicz & Shellie Janawicz to Juston Powers, mobile home, Sandy Pines Rd

• Gary & Lori Delphia to Earl & Rebecca Schrader, 21.53 acres open land, Tucker Rd

• Gary & Lori Delphia to Katherine Nelson, spring rights, Guyette Rd

• Heather Grant & Sean Luster, to Fecteau Homes, mobile home, Fair Rd

• Russell & JoAnn Velander to Adam Cyr & Carrie Lacillade, single family dwelling & 1.42 acres, Old Railroad Lane

• Joseph & Devon Byers to Carlton & Erin Harris, single family dwelling & .44 acres, US2

### SELECTBOARD

#### September 22, 2014: Special Meeting

Motions passed:

- to purchase a seven-year extended warranty for the new six-wheeler for the vehicle, engine, and engine electronics, plus the five-year warranty for the Allison Transmission for \$9,351, with money from the capital reserve account
- to designate Carl Etnier as East Montpelier's representative to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns 2014 Annual Meeting
- to not renew the CD at this time, but to reconsider how to invest the capital reserve after November 15, 2014
- to authorize Seth Gardner to sign a letter to John and Phyllis Sanfacon asking them to complete the cladding job on their trailers by December 1, 2014
- to sign the Chapell permit request #14-055 for work in the right-of-way to bury electric cables
- to sign the Hull permit request 14-056 for a curb cut request
- to offer the optional life insurance plan now available through the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to all employees

#### October 6, 2014

Motions passed:

- to authorize Seth Gardner to sign a letter to Eva Gumprecht declining her request for compensation for damage to her car
- to appoint Alex Rob to the Recreation Board per the recommendation of the Recreation Board

## **October 20, 2014**

Motions passed:

- to adopt the 2014-15 Winter Operations Plan
- to keep the town's share of insurance costs at 90% of the BCBS Platinum Plan, to offer town employees a choice of any of the BCBS plans, and to retain the stipend in lieu of insurance at \$1,600 per year
- to create a treasurer candidate recommendation committee consisting of the following members: Seth Gardner, Carl Etnier, Terri Conti, Dave Grundy, Ed Deegan, Fred Satink, Jane Burroughs
- to reappoint Chris Racanelli as Green Up Day Coordinator
- to authorize Bruce Johnson to ask Green Mountain Power to install a streetlight at the corner of Village Acres and US2

## **November 3, 2014**

Discussion items:

- uses for old EM fire department building on Templeton Rd.

Motions passed:

- to amend the winter roads policy to reflect that the clearing of roads town-wide takes about four hours not seven
- to renew the standard contract for service and maintenance of NEMRC annual support agreement
- to authorize Seth Gardner to sign a letter to Ellery Packard to say that the Selectboard has no current legal role to play in his dispute, but he is welcome to talk to SB at a meeting

## **PLANNING COMMISSION**

### **October 2, 2014**

Discussion items:

- Flood Hazard Area Regulations: Review of public forum and next steps
- consideration of an Administrative Amendment Procedure for DRB Approvals
- development of a list and timeline for other planning commission tasks

### **October 16, 2014**

Discussion items:

- final review of Draft Flood Hazard Area Regulations final hearing set for future date when all issues are resolved
- review of proposed grant withdrawal language
- discussion of Certificate of Compliance provisions in the East Montpelier Land Use and Development Regulations
- consideration of Act 250 Notice for Winterwood Timber Frames, LLC Development

## **November 6, 2014**

Motions passed:

- to approve wording so that Section 4.6.2(A) of EM zoning [regs] reads as follows: "The withdrawal of groundwater (including spring water) for non-domestic purposes, which exceeds 57,600 gallons on any given day or 20,000 gallons withdrawn per day averaged over a calendar month, may be allowed in designated zoning districts subject to conditional use review under Section 5.4."
- to keep the language as is in Section 7.4 and urge the zoning administrator to use the Certificate of Compliance

Discussion items:

- draft food hazard area regulations
- review of revised language for Administrative Amendment Procedure for DRB Approvals
- upcoming VLCT presentation on Judicial Bureau enforcement option on 11/17 6:30 p.m. at Fire Station
- update from Capital Improvement Committee: hearing on 12/3/14 at 7 p.m. at Fire Station

## **DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

### **October 7, 2014**

- Motion passed to uphold the zoning administrator's decision dated 8/8/14 in the appeal of Ellery & Jennifer Packard

## **EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD**

### **September 15, 2014**

- Motion tabled to approve F-21 Weapons Policy

### **Wednesday, October 15, 2014**

Motions passed:

- to approve the Hazing Policy (F24)
- to approve the Weapons Policy (F21)
- to approve the Policies and Procedures policy
- to approve writing off delinquent lunch accounts
- to approve an increase of a facilities staffing position from .62 FTE to 1.0 FTE
- Motion to approve the Conflict of Interest Policy (B3) was tabled

### **Monday, October 20, 2014**

- Motion passed to accept the EMES Audit Report

## **U-32 SCHOOL BOARD**

### **October 1, 2014**

Motions passed:

- to approve the board orders as presented for October

- to approve the administration recommendations regarding two students

## **October 6, 2014**

Motions passed:

- to go into executive session for the purpose of holding a student hearing
- to approve the administration recommendation regarding the student matter

## **October 15, 2014**

Motions passed:

- to enter and complete an executive session to discuss student matters
- to approve the administration's recommendation regarding student one and student two
- to not offer an early retirement option for teachers and/or support staff
- to award the transportation bid for the 8th grade class trip to Premier Coach

## **October 22, 2014, Special Meeting**

Motions passed:

- to go into executive session and exit session
- to approve the administration's recommendation regarding a student matter

## **November 5, 2014**

Motions passed:

- to adopt Transportation Policy F9 as presented
- to approve Leave of Absence requests from Rachel Collier and Erin Galligan-Baldwin, as presented

## **Wednesday, November 19, 2015**

Motions passed:

- to adopt the Weapons Policy with the edits for clarity
- to approve the FY14 Audit Report
- to approve the appointment of Scott McLoughlin as 1.0 FTE math teacher •



me and opened the way to get behind the counter and asked me to wait "just a sec" until he finished up what he was doing. He sat at his desk, turned to his computer screen and concentrated on typing an email. A few minutes later, he hit "send," looked over his shoulder and said, "Oh boy, she's gonna get fired up, but I've already approved this with my boss so that's the way it'll be. We need the extra help over the holidays to make people happy, and that's why I'm here, to make people happy!"

Still standing, I smiled. He pushed a stack of papers aside, clearing a spot on the back of his desk, then got up and brought a stool over for me. He said, "You might find some postmasters who are less jovial, but they are missing out. It's the people who come in here that make this job interesting." Then he said, "Okay, this is for the *Signpost*, right? Where would you like to start?"

"Oh, I think I've seen just about all I need to see," I answered.

His eyebrows shot up, and he let out a hearty laugh. Then he said, "Well you probably need some background. I was born at Heaton House in 1966. My folks live in the Barre area. I am married and have a son, a daughter, and two grandchildren. As for the post office, in 1999 I started working at the sorting plant in White River Junction, the one that Bernie Sanders saved. Transferred to Montpelier in 2001. After five years went to Marshfield where I became a postmaster, and in October of 2012 transferred to East Montpelier."

"How does someone become a postmaster?"

"Well, mostly by experience. That, and along the way you apply and apply again. Eventually, it comes together, but I think the most important experience is at the sorting plant. Everybody in the Postal Service should work in the sorting room for a time. That's the heart of the organization, and you see the trends. The mail has changed a great deal in the past few years. Third class mail and packages are now subsidizing first class. Advertising is what's keeping the wheels turning."

"You mean junk mail?"

"I don't call it junk mail! It pays the bills, and people think that the Internet is going to put the postal service out of business, but that's not the case. Sure, email and electronic banking and e-business have cut into the volume of letters and documents, but the increase in packages resulting from people shopping at home by computer is changing the focus of the service, and it remains to be seen how it will work out. Nobody sits down and writes a letter any more, but lots of folks order things online. Things change."

"Like Forever stamps? Was that your idea?"

He laughed again. "I wish! Saves the USPS a bundle!"

"How's that?"

"They don't have to print the one- and two-cent stamps when there is an increase. Also, they don't have to destroy the outdated stamps. Like all businesses these days, the Postal

Service is driven by money, and any way to save money is important. That's why this counter closes for two hours in the middle of the day. Technically I get a two-hour lunch. I can be here early and stay late without overtime, except when I have to deliver Express Mail. I have half an hour to do that." He continued, "You know, the Postal Service focuses on cost savings, but I think that success depends on repeat business. If people feel good when they leave, then they will likely come back."

"How do you make people feel good?"

He thought for a moment and said, "Just the other day a mother came in here with her four-year-old son who was crying. When I asked what was the matter, his mom said he was upset because he couldn't get the Halloween costume he wanted. They were the only customers, so I had time to play. I took four Express Mail Boxes, taped them together, cut holes for the boy's head and arms, put it on him and said he could go as a package. The kid was delighted, and so was his mother!"

As for challenges, Alan mentioned that not everybody who comes in is satisfied with the service. "Maybe they didn't get their package, or their magazine was torn by a machine. Could be that somebody stole their mail or vandalized their mailbox. Hey, it happens," he said. "That's when I become the complaint department because most of the time I'm the only one here. Another challenge with this office is that, and again for cost-saving reasons, some folks with an East Montpelier address are served by the Montpelier office because they are already delivering near them, and when their mail is sent here, then it's delayed."

He also talked about how the location was difficult to navigate in and out of in the evening. "Almost impossible to turn left out of the parking lot in the late afternoon up until after five, so coming here is not always as positive as I would like it to be, but there's no money to move this office."

I said, "You probably keep up with the local gossip here; what can you tell me?"

He asked me, "You want to know what keeps coming up? I mean I hear about it at least once a week. It's Spirit Day. People miss having Spirit Day with the auction and fireworks and food."

"You mean Rally Day?"

"Yes! That's it, Rally Day. Whatever happened to that?"

I answered, "I think they had a hard time finding someone to run it. Lotta work."

"That's a shame," he said.

"Yes," I agreed.

It came time to end the interview, and I asked him if he had anything to add.

He got quiet and looked around the room with a wrinkled brow. I followed his gaze to the gray plastic bins overflowing with letters next to stacks of boxes waiting for the truck. He looked me in the eye. His face relaxed. He took a deep breath and said,

"One day a woman came in here and waited quietly in line behind three or four customers. She was holding a box with both hands. When her turn came, I looked at her and noticed tears falling down her cheeks. She started to hand me the box, then took it back and clutched it to her chest. Then she kissed the box and gave it to me saying, 'This is for my son in Iraq. Will you please make sure he gets it?' I assured her that, yes, I would do my best to see that it got to him."

For a while, neither of us spoke. Then I broke the silence and thanked him for telling me about that. "That's why I enjoy being a postmaster," he said. "Not everybody leaves here smiling, but my hope is that they feel better than when they came in."

We talked a little longer, then we stood and he unlocked the door to the lobby. We shook hands, and I left with a greater appreciation for our Post Office and our postmaster.

—Norman Hill is on the EM Planning Commission and Development Review Board. He is an avid tennis player and enjoys baking artisan bread with a starter he has maintained since 2009.

## Town Taps Welch to Continue as Treasurer

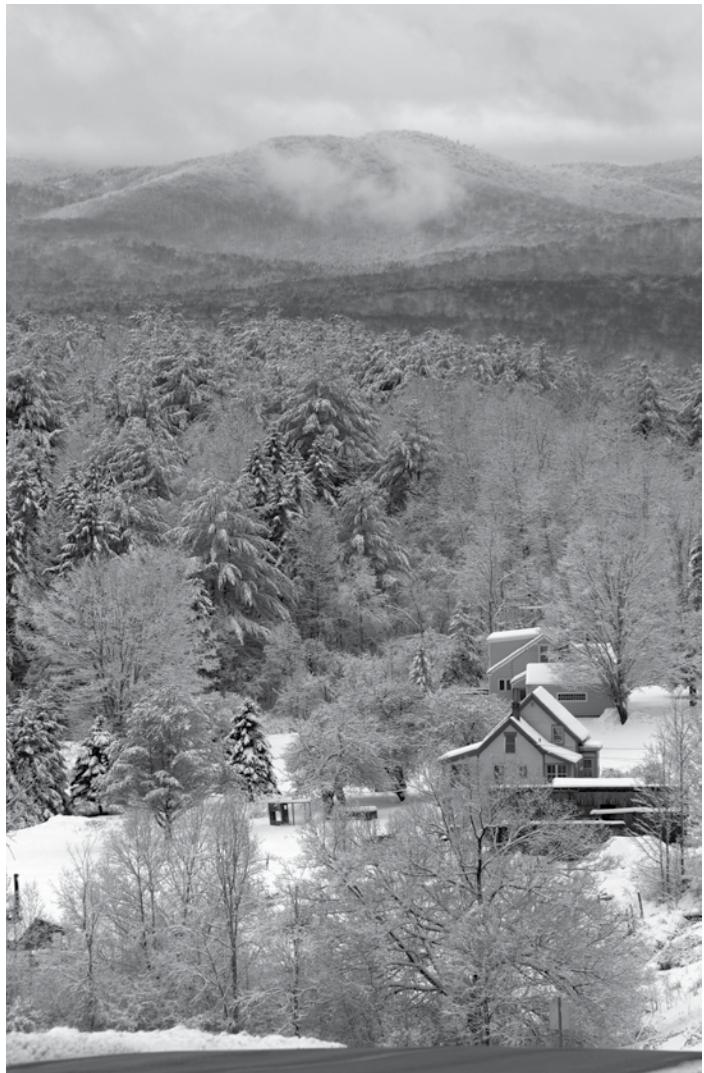
By Carl Etnier, Selectboard Member

Soon after taking office in 2012, East Montpelier Treasurer Don Welch suggested that election should be the last time the town chose a treasurer by Australian ballot. Now, he's set to become the first appointed treasurer on Town Meeting Day 2015.

The town adopted a charter at Town Meeting in 2014 specifying that East Montpelier's Selectboard will appoint the treasurer when the current term expires this March. This decision was driven by an acknowledgement of the growing complexity of the position and the need for specialized skills. The charter specifies that while the Selectboard appoints a treasurer, candidates must be vetted by a representative nominating committee.

In November, the seven-member nominating committee, headed by Selectboard Chair Seth Gardner, met twice and concluded that Don Welch was doing an excellent job as treasurer, both technically and in his interactions with colleagues and townspeople. Since Welch had expressed interest in retaining the position, and the committee thought a formal search process had no reasonable likelihood of finding a better candidate, the committee voted to send only one name to the Selectboard: Don Welch.

At its Dec. 1 meeting, the Selectboard accepted the committee's recommendation. Informed of the decision, Welch said he is flattered that people view his work so favorably. "I feel I've accomplished what I initially set out, and I have more things to do." The Selectboard plans to meet with Don Welch to discuss the terms of his appointment.



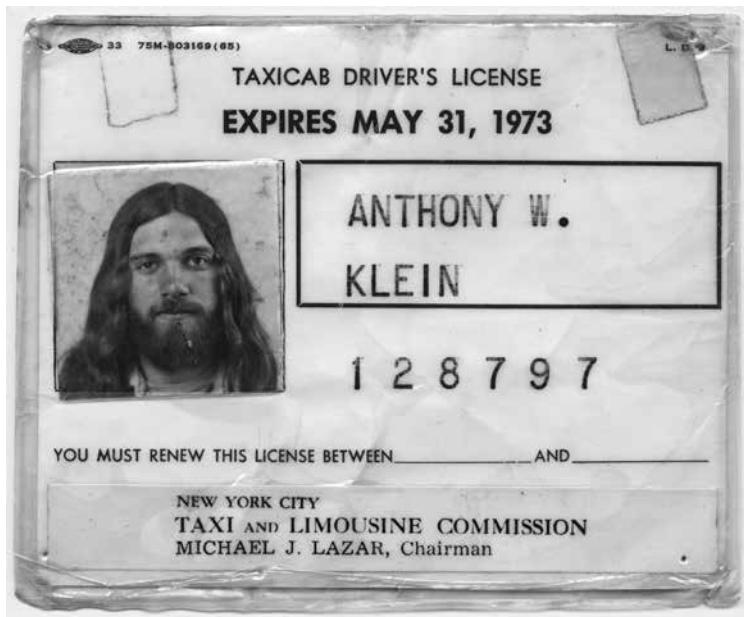
TERRY ALLEN

## Paulie's Recipe: Split Pea Soup

1 cup dry split peas  
2 inch cube of salt pork cut into tiny pieces  
2½ qts. cold water  
1 small onion cut into tiny pieces  
2 tablespoons flour  
1 ½ teaspoon salt  
3 tablespoons butter  
1/8 teaspoon pepper  
•Wash peas, drain and put into 1½ quarts of cold water.  
•Add the pork and onion, salt and pepper.  
•Simmer 3-4 hours or until peas are soft, then add 1 quart hot water, stir often, thicken with flour and add butter.

— Winnie Persons from *The Community Cook Book*

*Paulie's notes: Ham can be used instead of salt pork. Serve with Vermont Common Crackers and goat cheese or other cheese of your choice.*



administrator of a government program providing assistance and employment to young people in rural Vermont.

Tony is a man who likes new challenges and can't stand being bored. He lasted six months before he got frustrated working for the government assistance program. In the forty years since, he has started the Washington County Diversion Program for minors charged with a crime, sold advertising for WNCS radio station, owned a millwork and woodworking shop, managed Peter Smith's successful campaign for lieutenant governor in 1982, run a national marketing effort for Mrs. Applewood's Foods, started his own consulting company, worked for a roofing company and as a marketer for Blue Flame Gas, and was a lobbyist for Washington Electric Coop and renewable energy before becoming a legislator.

These days Tony Klein is a powerful player in the legislature, chair of the Natural Resources and Energy Committee and chair of the House and Senate Energy Oversight Committee. He is a forceful and unapologetic voice for legislation he believes in. But in Cabot, as a young man and a newcomer to town, he sat in the back of Town Meeting, too intimidated to speak.

The years in Cabot were hard in some ways. They lived out of town and Tony was on the road a lot with work leaving Jennifer to take care of their two kids, Jessica and Timothy, their horses, and her pottery business.

In 1978, while they were still living in Cabot, she and 16 other craftspeople founded The Artisan's Hand, first as a temporary holiday gallery to sell their crafts, and then as a permanent craft store. Thirty-six years later, The Artisan's Hand is among the oldest and most established retailers in Montpelier. In the early days, when the store was located on Langdon Street, things were more haphazard. Once a craftsperson who was minding the store went to get lunch and absent-mindedly locked a customer inside the store as he left.

When Tony and Jennifer moved to East Montpelier he got involved in the 1989 expansion of the East Montpelier

Elementary School. There were 40 people at the first planning meeting, but pretty soon it was down to just three, one of whom was Tony. He discovered that he liked this sort of work and ran for the school board. A year later he was school board chair.

This summer Jennifer sold her pottery equipment. Over the duration of her pottery business 120,000 pounds of clay passed through her hands and were formed by them into useful objects. That much clay leaves its mark on a craftsperson, and she feels the pain of arthritis. Now her fingers tap on a keyboard as she creates websites and hosts them, 65 of them so far, at her business, [jboyerdesign.com](http://jboyerdesign.com), which is now eight years old.

Their house on Powder Horn Glen is decorated with lots of artwork including paintings by Jennifer's mother and, of course, pictures of their kids and now grandkids. Tony points to the radiator for an air source heat pump that hangs discreetly in one corner of the living room. "That's the future," says Tony. "I get up in the morning and the propane furnace has kept the house at 60 degrees. I turn that on and in no time it is plenty warm in here. It is electric and we're WEC customers, so it is 100% renewable."

*—Robby Porter, his wife Beth Ann, and their children, Ceres and Ford, live on the EM side of Adamant.*

*He grew up on the Calais side of Adamant.*

## East Montpelier Fire District No. 1

*by Steve Gilman, Prudential Committee Chair*

Things have been fairly quiet with the Fire District during the last several months. Negotiations with the Crystal Springs owner to reach a fair and sustainable purchase agreement are still at an impasse, but we remain hopeful things will change. Crystal Springs has been operating without a permit for several months due to continued deficiencies identified by the state. We have requested state officials to enforce their own rules and regulations.

Our annual meeting, at which we will elect one member of the Prudential Committee, is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at the EM Fire Station. We strongly encourage members of the Fire District to attend; the public is always welcome. It's all about safe drinking water for the 300-plus residents who consume water from the system.

Maple Syrup • Vermont Products • Country Store  
Corporate Gifts • Woodshed Theatre • Folk Art



**MORSE FARM  
MAPLE SUGARWORKS**

Thanks a lot for your continued support!

1168 COUNTY ROAD, MONTPELIER, VT 05602  
1-800-242-2740 • [WWW.MORSEFARM.COM](http://WWW.MORSEFARM.COM)

State and Federal Incentives Still Available



**CATAMOUNT  
SOLAR**

Your East Montpelier Source for Solar Power Systems

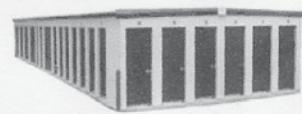
30+ yrs. Experience      Highest Quality      Dependable

Contact Kevin McCollister      802-595-2390

Call to set up you free site evaluation and quote

Residential \* Commercial \* Farms \* Camps

**K & A LEASING**



**44 Storage Units  
Assorted Sizes  
5 x 5 to 10 x 30**

Call us for your storage needs

**802-224-7170**

Locally owned & operated on Rt. 2 in E. Montpelier



Locally Owned & Operated  
Now Supplying Premium Heating Oil

Route 14, East Montpelier, Vermont 05651

Ph: 802-223-0126 • Cell: 802-793-4013

homeenergy@pshift.com

Oil & Propane Delivery • Air Conditioning • Installation • Service



**KC's Performance Auto Care**

Quality auto repair and maintenance  
Vermont state inspection station  
Reliable used cars

**Casey Northrup**  
Owner/Technician

4423 US Route 2  
East Montpelier, VT 05651

**802-224-7170**

kcsautovt@yahoo.com



Traditional Vermont  
Homes & Outbuildings

- ◆ Custom Designed & Handcrafted
- ◆ Specializing in Energy Efficient Homes
- ◆ Committed to Local Natural Resources
- ◆ General Contracting Services



Call for a free consultation  
**Winterwood Timber Frames, LLC**  
Andy Harper  
802-353-6111  
Winterwoodtimber@gmail.com  
Winterwoodtimberframes.com

TEL. (802) 223-7191  
NIGHTS (802) 229-2728  
CELL (802) 249-8402



**BLAKE – LOSO**

Finest in North Carolina Used Cars

And Trucks

Rt. 14, EAST MONTPELIER, VT 05651  
DEDICATED SALES & SERVICE

RICHARD "DICK" BLAKE  
OWNER

TRUE SOUTHERN CARS  
A SPECIALTY



(802) 476-3811  
info@cvhumane.com  
www.cvhumane.com

Tuesday - Friday: 1pm - 6pm Saturday: 11am - 4pm  
1589 VT Route 14S East Montpelier, VT 05651

**Maple Creemees All Year Long**

We ship  
anywhere

"A quality fam-  
ily farm shop"



802-223-5757

1 mile north of E. Montpelier village on Rt. 14 (follow signs)

Vermont  
handicrafts  
Gifts  
Vermont  
cheese  
Mail-order  
maple products



**Patrick McCoy  
249-3003**

P.W. McCoy Corp  
964 Bliss Road  
E. Montpelier, VT 05651

- ✓ **Driveways:** Installing New or Resurfacing (Slate and Gravel); Ditching and Culvert Work; Plowing
- ✓ **Lawns:** Grading, Seeding and Mulching for New or Existing Sites
- ✓ **Land Improvement:** Rototilling; Bushhogging; and Trail Work
- ✓ **Dump Truck:** Delivery of Topsoil, Manure, Compost, Gravel, Slate
- ✓ **Excavation:** Site Work for Sonotube and Floating Slabs; Digging Under-ground Utility Lines; and Much More!

**East Montpelier Signpost**  
**PO Box 184**  
**East Montpelier, VT 05651**  
**Return Service requested**

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 61  
Montpelier, VT

[www.emsignpost.com](http://www.emsignpost.com)

- Up-to-date calendar listings
- Signpost archive
- East Montpelier organizations

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

## CALENDAR

**Wed. Jan. 14, 7 p.m** Fire Station Community Room,  
annual meeting of the EM Fire District #1  
**Sat. Feb. 28** EMES, Town/School forum (tentative date)  
**Tues. Mar. 3** EMES, Town/School Meeting (tentative date)

## NOTICES

**Thurs. & Fri. Dec. 25 & 26** Christmas Holiday, Town Office closed  
**Thurs. & Fri. Jan. 1 & 2** New Year's Holiday, Town Office closed  
**Mon. Jan. 20** Deadline to petition for Town Meeting articles  
**Mon. Jan. 26** Deadline for petitions for elected positions  
**Wed. Feb. 11** Early/Absentee ballots for Town Meeting available

**Next Due Date for Signpost Submissions: January 26**  
See Photos of EMES soccer teams at [www.emsignpost.com](http://www.emsignpost.com)

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	as needed	7:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
Development Review Board (DRB)	1st Tues	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) Board	3rd Mon	5:30 p.m.	Elementary School
East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)	Every Tues	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
East Montpelier Fire District No. 1	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
East Montpelier Historical Society	3rd Tues	7:00/6:00 p.m.	Four Corners Schoolhouse/E. Calais
East Montpelier Sr. Living Initiative	2nd & 4th Tues	6:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners Schoolhouse
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)	2nd Wed	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School, Art Room
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Recreation Board	2nd Mon	7:15 p.m.	Elementary School
Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	6:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed	6:00 p.m.	U-32 School