

# EAST MONTPELIER Signpost



Volume XXII—Number One

September/October 2011



Nye's store

## Disappearing Landmarks

For this issue, the *Signpost* tapped the memories and research of citizens for landmarks no longer existing or now used differently. Most can be found in *Across the Onion: A History of East Montpelier, Vermont 1781 to 1981*, by local residents Ellen C. Hill and Marilyn S. Blackwell. The Historical Society recently updated its booklet *Historic Sites of East Montpelier, VT*. These and more landmark information are available at the Town Office and through the E. Montpelier Historical Society at [www.eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org). Other landmark stories are at [www.emsignpost.org](http://www.emsignpost.org).

*Continued on Page 3*

### IN THIS ISSUE

2—Top of the *Signpost*

3—Disappearing Landmarks

6—Town Weathervane

9—September Tale

12—Calendar & Notices

## Catch the Fun: Rally Day Sept. 10

Don't miss East Montpelier's 23-year tradition!

by Bill Merrylees  
Rally Day coordinator

*Excitement is brewing for this year's Rally Day, with many new events and venues.*

We will celebrate our town's principal village (where routes 2 and 14 meet) with morning activities at the Fire Station, riverside, and our new



Ferron Pursell and Tegan O'Donnell

TERRY J. ALLEN

Green in front of the Old Brick Church. There will be a morning Café at the Old Brick Church, a Farmers' Market on the Green, Kids' Park with "touch-a-truck," a bouncy house, and other activities at the fire house, plus two special walking tours for all ages. The River Walk will be an easy stroll along the picturesque riverbanks of the Winooski with naturalist Charles Johnson. The History Walk, led by Dave Coburn, will visit some familiar and lesser known sites in East Village. You'll learn about the old Music Convention, tourist cabins, granite sheds, and a former name of the village.

Stay for a great Firemen's Barbecue at the Fire Station from 11:00 to 1:00. If you love barbecued chicken and fixins, be sure you purchase tickets in advance (at the firehouse, or call 223-5586 for required advance tickets for chicken), or just come on over for burgers, hot dogs, and more. You won't go away hungry!

Parking for all Village activities will be at the Fire Station. You can easily walk to the church and Green on new sidewalks and cross the road using the push-button pedestrian crossing signal. There is handicapped parking at the church and Fire Station.

After lunch, the focus shifts to our traditional location, the elementary school. The *Signpost* Silent Auction begins at noon featuring outstanding goods and services from generous East Montpelierites—the proceeds from which assure that you receive your *Signpost* all year long. Parade preparations begin about 1:00 and our home-grown Parade will push off at 1:30, featuring

*Continued on Page 8*

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**Signpost**

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## Top of the Signpost

by Lisa Gariboldi

I want to share my appreciation for being able to raise a family, build strong friendships, and work in this wonderful community of East Montpelier. I have been teaching fourth grade at EMES since 1997. I have seen many changes with administration, classroom configurations, math programs, spelling approaches, and so much more, but the one thing that has impressed me the most and has remained the same, is that there is a unified belief in making sure the children in our school are taken care of and given an excellent education.

It was only three years ago that I moved into this amazing community. I live just a hop, skip, and jump from the school, and honestly my family and I couldn't be happier. My children love school and I love seeing them each day. Being a parent and a staff member is such a unique experience. My favorite part about that is I get to experience firsthand what my children are doing or seeing, which gives us so much to talk about at dinner! My children have made some great friends here in East Montpelier. We felt so welcomed from the start. People here really do lend a helping hand, make an effort to greet each other, and truly show a sense of compassion.

As I sit on our front porch and look out at the gorgeous view, I think about how lucky I am. Our neighbors, who are considered family, and I are constantly saying, "Boy, life is good up here on the hill," and we mean it.



TERRY J. ALLEN

### Calling All Farmers and Food Producers!

Rally Day will celebrate our local  
growers and producers with a

## FARMERS' MARKET ON THE GREEN

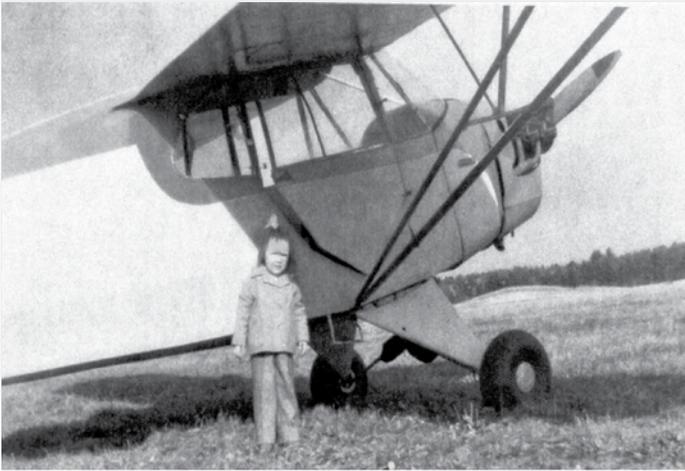
by the Old Brick Church (10:00 – 12:00)

If you grow veggies, raise chickens, sheep or beef, make maple syrup or cheese, grow plants or any other local food or plant products, set up a table, and bring some sample products or photos. There will also be a **KIDS' PRODUCTS** section. Contact **Jean Vissering** at **223-3262** for info.



Seth Gardner and the girls

TERRY J. ALLEN



## Fairmont Flying Service

Fairmont Flying Service was created when Peter Lemieux and his son-in-law Gordon Robinson bought 80 acres from Elmer and Pearl Mugford on October 7, 1946, to establish an airfield. Robinson was WWII as a fighter pilot and had commercial and private plane instructor licenses, as did Charles Colbert, another son-in-law of Peter. The property had been the site for the Washington County Fairgrounds in 1873 when the new Montpelier and Wells River Railroad carried fairgoers between Montpelier and E. Montpelier's Fairmont railroad station.

Work began in spring 1946 for a 1,850-foot landing strip and a hangar. Peter's son Daniel assisted, and while he wasn't a pilot, he helped at the airfield after its completion.

Daniel Lemieux recalls that business was brisk for the first couple of years: veterans could learn to fly under the GI Bill, airplane rides were offered, and the Civil Air Patrol flew out of the airport. The fleet included a Waco bi-plane trainer, two Piper Cubs (one a Cub Cruiser for three people), a surplus Vultee BT-13 Valiant, as well as a Taylorcraft. The Flying Service also served as an agent for Hockaday Comet Airplanes.

But business slacked off, and the airport property was used as a dirt car race track as early as 1948, as well as a site for carnivals and fireworks. It was sold on March 1, 1955, to Carleton Tenney who opened a Ford tractor dealership. Tenney sold to Eugene Baker who operated a used furniture store. Later records show new owners, with the property divided and used for other businesses, and now the hangar is the only reminder of the Fairmont Flying Service. It is currently owned by Rubin Bennett and houses his and other businesses.

—Anne Ormsbee

Other memories of the airport: Sylvia Tosi, whose house is on land that once was part of the airport, remembers that in the 1960s small planes would still swoop over the site at low altitudes—perhaps unaware that the airport had closed.

Audrey Lafirira related that once when she and husband George hayed this field for the airport she contracted such a bad case of poison ivy, especially on her feet, that she

couldn't remove her shoes. Dorie Phillips grew up across from the airport and in addition to recalling frequent plane landings and departures, she remembers attending a circus performance on the field.

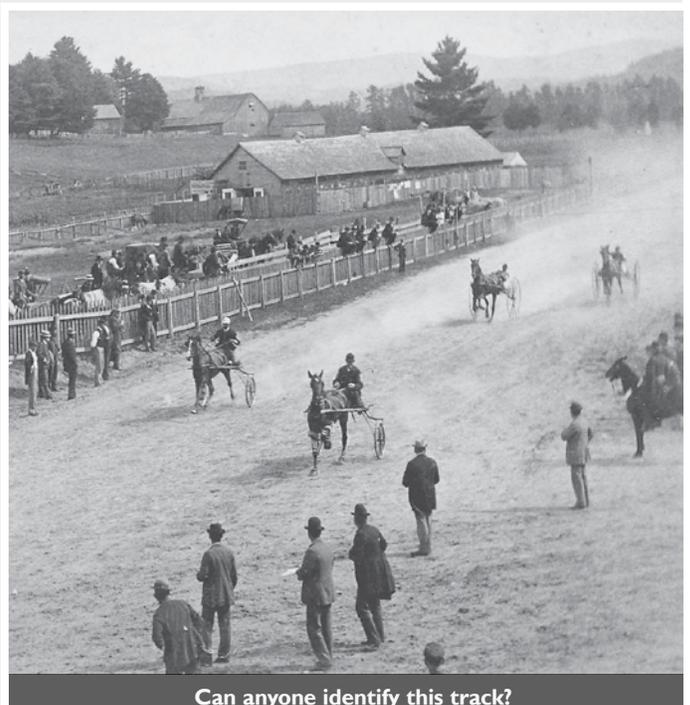
## The Old Racetrack Field

Have you ever felt as if you were running in circles, going nowhere and being judged by the people around you? I imagine that is how the horses that lived at our Hammett Hill Road farm in the mid-1800s felt. Instead of milking cows, the Hammetts trained horses for down-country races at a racetrack they built in the upper field that lies just west of Guyette Road. When my grandfather bought the farm in 1939, he was told about this piece of history, and that is why it has long been called "the race track field."

Hidden in the woods, you can still see a gracefully curved edge as it bends around one end of the oval track. Carefully placed stones covered with a thick layer of earth suggest a sunken stone wall, but when you walk along the top, it is clear that this was constructed to bank the turn to assist horses as they rounded the corner for another lap.

A century or more of agricultural use and the tread of heavy machinery has erased most of the track, but pieces of it remain submerged under the canopy of encroaching forest and fallen limbs. In the middle of the track, ledge creates an elevation from which spectators and horse traders could view the action. On a summer afternoon, you can almost imagine the long-ago pounding of hoofs, and smell the scent of horses. The nostalgic moment is sweet until you remember that you must rush off to your own race.

—Andy Christiansen



Can anyone identify this track?

## The Old Town Hall



Old Town Hall, 1950s

In the early 1960s Linda Royce, who grew up in EM village, remembers attending Town Meeting as a young bride. The meeting was then held in a two-story building across from

the East Montpelier Post Office. Dances took place there and even a minstrel show or two. Linda also recalled attending her sister Mary Jane's wedding reception there. She said it was a popular place for such events.

Rhoda Chickering said that her mother remembers that 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduations were held there, and that there were dances were on the second floor.

By the time I moved here in 1969, I don't believe the old Town Hall was still in use or even standing. I don't know exactly when it was torn down, but it has become one of our disappearing landmarks.

—Carolyn Pastore

## Fairmont Railroad

Fairmont Railroad was a mile south of East Montpelier village on Route 14, just past the Lyle Haven Farm where Audrey and George Lafirira lived back in the '50s when they operated the farm. Audrey remembers train rides with her mother, Myrle Daniels, and her Grandmother Gray from East Montpelier, transferring in Wells River to Laconia, New Hampshire. Passengers occupied half the space while the other half was used for carrying the U.S. mail.

Dorie Phillips, who lived not too far from the station, told me she had taken a ride on the same passenger car to Montpelier in the early 1950s. She also remembers Eula Brown picking up the mail from the train station, and bringing it to Dudley's Store, which then housed the U.S. Post Office.

Thelma Welch related that her frequent train trips to Montpelier first cost 15 cents, and then 25 cents each way. She would also go to Plainfield on the train to May and Roy Dudley's, who owned a store there, so she could babysit their children. She also recalls that in the station there were "little" seats you could sit on when the weather wasn't good outside or too cold. Thelma is 90 years young and was 10 or 12 years old when she was doing these things. She recalled that a George Foster worked at the station but she wasn't sure of his job title.



Fairmont Railroad

*Across the Onion* notes that the station first opened its rail line from Montpelier to Wells River on November 26, 1872. The last train ran on November 26, 1956. Tracks were removed, and the right-of-way became a trail for snowmobiles and cross-country skiers. The station in East Montpelier burned and then was replaced with a building that operated as the Ralston Purina Co., and later as a small-item store and bottle redemption center. The latter burned in 1981. Presently, this site is a parking area for access to the trail, which can be traveled by foot, snowmobile, or on skis.

—Sylvia Tosi

## S&E Morse Maple Sugarworks

As maple sugaring operations go these days, we Vermonters don't have any that'll "hold a candle" to some of the massive outfits up in Quebec. There was one, however, back in the last century right here in the town of East Montpelier. It was called the S&E Morse Maple Sugarworks up in the Horn of the Moon, and was billed as the "largest in the world." If you look closely, you can still see its granite block foundation out in the new growth at the corner of North Street Extension and Horn of the Moon Road. The only way, however, you

can see the actual sugarhouse and huge "virgin" maples that were tapped is with a peek at a well-preserved series of ancient photos the visionary S&E Morse folks had taken way back when.

The demise of the S&E Morse Maple Sugarworks is subject to debate. One theory has all those virgin maples dying of disease; the other that the maple empire, the largest in the world, fell victim to a feud between two brothers...sweet gone sour!

Oddly, those Morses were not related to the Morses of East Montpelier's present-day Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks, just three miles down the road.

—Burr Morse



Village school

## The North Montpelier Church

The Union Meeting House in North Montpelier was built in 1867 with the sponsorship of the Universalist Society of North Montpelier. Community members donated time and bought subscriptions. The local Dramatic Society gave plays to raise money. Pews were auctioned for as much as \$160. The site was bought from Jacob Rich for \$367.



Charles Bennett directed the building of the wooden church. The Coburn, Nye, and Rich families donated stained glass memorial windows, and local businessman Martin V. B. Hollister and his son-in-law Lewis L. Coburn supplied the bell. At the laying of the cornerstone containing the church documents, the Rev. Lester Warren conducted services, and Rev.

Simeon Goodenough gave the address. The church was dedicated on September 12, 1867. Warren was the first minister, and preached in North Montpelier as well as the Brick Church for many years. A Sabbath School was organized in 1875, attended by both children and adults.

Community women formed a Ladies Union Aid Society, which after a few years became the Ladies Circle and ultimately the Friendly Circle. Active in fundraising, they held suppers, plays, festivals, and concerts in the vestry, and published the cookbook that is the source of Paulie's Recipes.

By the 1930s and '40s the church was seldom used during the winter. Summer services were conducted by a succession of seminary students. Not in full use and sinking, the building was torn down in 1956. The stained-glass windows were installed in the Old Brick Church, and the bell was placed in the pagoda at the Meeting House in the Center.

—Dave Coburn, with information from *Across the Onion*

## Buttrick Creamery

The building where East Montpelier Home Center is today was built as the Buttrick Creamery in 1945. The cement loading dock in front where milk cans were received is still a prominent feature of the building.

Austin Cleaves remembers taking milk there when he helped out on the McKnight farm, currently Seth Gardner's farm. The farm's manager, John Farmer, liked to get his milk to the Buttrick Creamery at 6:30 a.m. so he could be the first in line. He unloaded his milk cans on to the dock, and they were taken inside, and dumped into a large vat. The weight of the milk in the vat could clearly be read on the large scale overhead.

The farmer was given the weight of his milk written on a piece of paper. The milk was also tested for butterfat. The weight and fat content determined the amount the farmer was paid. This process took time even though, Austin said, the business was very well managed by Fred Delorum, and workers including John Granger worked very hard. Arriving after 6:30 a.m. meant that you had to wait your turn in a line of trucks. Some farmers avoided the wait by having milk picked up by someone like Dwight Clark who worked for the creamery and drove around to various farms to pick up milk. Going to the creamery, though, was one of the few social times a farmer had.

Rhoda Chickering remembers going to the creamery, the "heart of the town," with her grandfather, Charles Taylor, waiting for the milk to be weighed and the butterfat content checked and then going to nearby Dudley's Store and the Post Office. Austin surmises that the quality of milk could not have been what we have today because it didn't cool down in those cans very fast, and it picked up road dust on the trip to town as well as rust from the used cans.

Austin remembers that an added town feature made possible by the creamery was a skating rink. The creamery had its own water supply from a large spring that was used to flood a level area behind the building using the creamery's hose. Austin and others including George Allen, George Lane, and Marshall Hodgeman shoveled snow off the ice and added more water periodically to smooth the surface. This was a popular spot in winter and even had a warming hut and lights.

—Barbara Ploof



David Buttrick & Co.



Predecessor to Buttrick's

## 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/Treasurer:** Terri Conti  
eastmonttct@comcast.net

**Town Administrator:**  
eastmontadmin@comcast.net

**Zoning Administrator:** Dina Bookmyer-Baker  
eastmontza@comcast.net

**Collector of Delinquent Taxes:** Karen Gramer  
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

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

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

### Selectboard

Bruce Johnson, Chair  
savage1@pshift.com

Carl Etnier

Peter Hill

Seth Gardner

Casey Northrup

### Planning Commission

Rick Hopkins, Chair, 229-4375

### Development Review Board

Richard Curtis, Chair  
rcurtis841@comcast.net

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

Ginny Burley gburley@u32.org  
Emily Goyette egoyette@u32.org

### Elementary School

Rubin Bennett, Acting Chair  
rbennett@thatitguy.com

Andrea Colnes

Trevor Lewis

Stephen Looke

Flor Diaz-Smith

### State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032  
twk@tonyklein.com

## Town Weathervane

### MILESTONES

#### Births

- Jackson Adam Foster, son, born on April 21, 2011, to Valerie Lynne Bigglestone & Jeremy Paul Foster.
- Ava Mirembe Bruce-Grundy and Esme Ssanyu Bruce-Grundy, born June 2, 2011, twin daughters of Nancy Bruce & the late James Grundy.
- Lily Marie Herring, daughter, born on June 15, 2011, to Mary Lynn Papineau & David William Herring.
- Elliot McConnell Stewart, son, born on June 28, 2011, to Priscilla Wheatley Carr & Jay McConnell Stewart.

#### Marriages:

- Shaline Kirsten Kirkpatrick to Rubin Balch Bennett, June 18, 2011.
- Douglas Eric Wheeler to Melissa Marie Jarvis, June 26, 2011.
- Victoria Mae Capitanelli to Will Henry Duane, July 16, 2011.
- Leslie Ann Drown to Corey Richard Salisbury, July 16, 2011.
- Rebekah Ann Swenson to James Edward Rivais Jr, July 16, 2011.
- Tricia Anne Labelle to Joshua Omer Adams, July 23, 2011.
- Ruth Diane Hill to Gretchen Tracy Leglec, July 27, 2011.

#### Deaths

- Loraine M. Papineau, died June 6, 2011, mother of Sheryl Moran, Shayne Roster, Robin Garbacik, Richard & James Papineau and Sheila Garbacik.
- Alberta Rose Pacini, died June 15, 2011, spouse of the late Augustine Pacini (deceased Oct.30, 2010), mother of Gloria M. Bishop.
- Shirley S. Burley, died July 1, 2011, mother of David Burley & Don Burley, and grandmother to Aaron, Hanna, Cassie, Anne & Michael Burley.
- Stuart F. Lawson, died July 12, 2011, spouse of Annette Lawson, father of Stuart Lawson Jr, Steven, Timothy & Thomas Lawson.

#### Property Transfers

- Pamela C. Heffernan to Emily C. Urquhart-Scott, 3.5 acres & dwelling, Johnson Rd.
- James L. & Patricia M. O'Mahoney to Patricia M. O'Mahoney, 7 acres & dwelling, Towne Hill Rd.
- Clifton A. Matthews & Susan M. Andersen to Robert Beall & Lindsay Whalen, 5.6 acres & dwelling, Center Rd.
- Bruce A. Butler Estate to Donna M. Butler, 56.9 acres & dwelling, Brazier Rd.
- Fecteau Residential Inc. d/b/a Fecteau Homes to Vanessa Deuso & Anne Chamberlin, double-wide mobile home, Clark Rd.

- Jane Kiser, Robert Andrus, Gloria Hurd, Gary Graves, Marilyn Messick & Gordon Graves to Darci L. Coleman-Graves & Elisha M. Coleman, 1.5 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
- Abigail Bruce & Sean K. Downey to Shawn Dion, 13 acres & dwelling, Fair Rd.

### DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

#### June 7, 2011

Motions Approved:

- to recess the hearing on the Proposal by Goddard College (Appl. #11-012) until the 7/19/11 meeting.
- to approve as amended the minutes of May 3, 2011.

### PLANNING COMMISSION

#### June 16, 2011

Motions Passed:

- to adopt the same signage requirements for zones A, B, and C based on existing regulations now found for zones Z and B.
- to cancel both PC meetings in August ( 8/4 and 8/18).

#### July 7, 2011

No actions taken

### SELECTBOARD MINUTES

#### May 2, 2011

Motions Approved:

- to appoint Martha Israel to the Wrightsville Beach District, Bill Merrylees to the Rally Day Committee, and Lyn Blackwell, Lindy Johnson, Rhoda Chickering, Allen Ploof, and Charlie Catlin to the Funding Request Study Committee.
- to approve the excess weight permits for Haskins & Sons Concrete, Pyrofax Energy, Mike Brown, Joseph Dimick, and Raymond Hickory, Jr.
- to authorize the chair to sign the engagement letter for the accounting firm of Fothergill, Segale, and Valley for FY11.
- to approve the road crew to move to summer hours of four 10-hour days per week.
- to move into Executive Session for a personnel matter.

#### May 5, 2011

- Special Joint Meeting with Calais Selectboard at the Emergency Services Facility
- There was an outside inspection of the Emergency Services Facility with Rick DeWolfe.

#### May 16, 2011

Motions approved

- to sign the Maintenance Agreement for the sidewalk on the Singing Bridge.

- to approve Excess Weight Permits for Gregory Bartlett and Miller Construction.
- to approve Black Rock's winter sand bid at \$11.42 per cubic yard.
- to approve Far View's bid for roadside mowing.
- to re-appoint Tim Carver as the CVRPC lead representative with Laura Brown as the alternate.
- to appoint Janice Waterman, Lisa Helme, Teresa Doyle and Jean Vissering to the Rally Day Committee until March 2012.
- to authorize the chair to sign the quote from ESRI Inc.
- to hire Creative Vision Landscaping (CVL) for the town mowing for no more than \$6,215.00.
- to authorize the chair to sign the Transportation Enhancement Grant.
- to go into executive session for a personnel matter.

**May 31, 2011**

Motions approved:

- to authorize the Road Foreman to hire E. E. Packard to repair Muddy Brook Road.

- to authorize the Selectboard chair to sign the letter to William Johnson, Director of the VT Department of Taxes, Property Valuation and Review, requesting a 30-day extension for filing the Abstract of Individual List.
- to authorize a zoning permit fee waiver for WEC's temporary office building.

**June 6, 2011**

Motions approved:

- to approve extra weight permits for Ran-Mar Corporation, Warren Hill Trucking, EE Packard Enterprises
- solar panel structures of 80 square feet or less will not require a zoning permit fee.
- to permit two temporary signs at the Route 2/14 intersection until the completion of the construction of the Singing Bridge.
- to authorize the chair to sign the agreement for 2011-12 with the Central Vermont Humane Society.

**June 14, 2011**

- Approved a motion to authorize the Selectboard chair to sign the agreement with Connor Contracting encompassing two repairs at the Emergency Services Facility: the

replacement of both the damaged pavement around the concrete apron and the damaged concrete sidewalks.

**June 20, 2011**

Motions approved:

- to close the Sesquicentennial Fund and move its balance to the Veteran's Memorial Fund
- to approve the access permits for Darryl Johnson and Ty Rolland .
- to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.
- to continue appointment of Bruce Johnson as Interim Town Administrator for six months with a 2% annual increase.
- to re-name old Route 14 "Church Street".
- to authorize the chair to sign the NEMRC agreement for one year.
- to adopt the EM Planning and Zoning Fees as amended 6/20/11.

**June 30, 2011**

- Approved a motion to authorize the Selectboard chair to sign the agreement with the Vermont Department of Taxes for a license to use the Marshall and Swift Cost Tables until June 30, 2012.



Ben Arbuckle

**Be a Mentor**

*Do you love kids, have positive energy, a healthy lifestyle, and a desire to make a meaningful difference?*

*Girls/Boyz First is looking for adult mentors to spend at least two hours a week with a young person. Training and support provided. Enrich your life and the life of a central Vermont child. For more info, go to: [communityconnections.us](http://communityconnections.us) and click on mentoring programs, or call Wendy Farber at 229-4798.*



MBV Hollister

**What We Want for Our Town**

*Jean Vissering*

All East Montpelier residents received a survey this winter with questions on numerous topics. Many thanks to the 146 residents/families who filled out the survey! The responses will help the Planning Commission draft a new Town Plan for 2013. Overall, respondents showed a great appreciation of our town, its rural nature, sense of community, and farming traditions (though lowering taxes was a common theme). The entire survey with compiled responses is available on the *Signpost* website ([www.emsignpost.com](http://www.emsignpost.com)), but here are some highlights:

- Rural character, water quality, energy conservation, and the quality of our schools ranked as the most important issues in town planning.
- Housing for seniors was noted as important.

- Protection of groundwater quality ranked high as a focus of future land conservation and planning efforts, with protection of farmland second.
- The importance of farming to our community was strongly stated in numerous comments focusing on its importance in providing local food and retaining the character of the landscape.
- There were many comments about enhancing East Montpelier village, including desires for restaurants, a farmer's market, a park and ride, and sidewalks.
- East Montpelier residents seem generally satisfied with our recreational opportunities.
- Energy efficiency and meeting safety codes were the most important goals for improving the elementary school facility.
- There were three things that people liked most about the town: people/community, rural character, and the town's proximity to Montpelier and Barre.
- There was less agreement about dislikes but some that were commonly mentioned were: lack of internet access, high taxes, lack of an appealing village center, traffic, and mud season.



Payton Gariboldi and Holly Lamson

kids, cars, animals, trucks, bikes, tractors, and of course the 2011 Citizen of the Year!

A brand new afternoon event this year is the High School Kickball Tournament. Teens from U-32 will compete for a \$300 cash prize to benefit their school club or athletic team. This isn't your kindergarten variety kickball—there will be thrills, spills, boomerballs, and crazy base running—all of the elements of a great spectator event. Thanks to Washington Electric Coop, the sponsor of this event.

For those preferring mental activity and great stories, come to Memory Hour at the school.

Back for an encore this year will be the Community Potluck Harvest Dinner at 6:00—the biggest potluck of the year! Bring a course for 6–8 people, and your appetite. After dinner, there will be live music, conversation, and special entertainment for the kids. Late in the day, weather permitting, there will be something very special—Tethered Hot Air Balloon Rides—originating from the field near the school. This has been generously underwritten by NorthCountry Federal Credit Union. We will accommodate as many folks as possible from 5:30–7:30 p.m. Ride reservations may be made in the morning at the Fire Station and in the afternoon at EMES (see schedule). Some walk-up rides will be available on a limited basis. Don't miss this bird's eye view of Rally Day and our beautiful countryside!

For more information and to volunteer to help, please contact the following organizers:

- East Village activities: Jean Vissering 223-3262
- Kids activities: Becky Brown 229-9010
- Kickball & balloon rides: Lisa Helme 229-9480
- To enter a vehicle or float in the parade: Bill Merrylees 223-4951
- *Signpost* silent auction: Joan Witham 223-2881, Barbara Ploof 223-6934
- Potluck dinner: Lucy Patti 223-4951

## EMES Board

It's been a busy spring and summer for the board. We accepted with regret the resignation of our chair, Rosie Laquerre, and appointed a new board member to fill her seat. Welcome, Flor Diaz-Smith! We formed a committee to identify and interview candidates for the principal position, and after careful deliberation, we are delighted to welcome Marion Anastasia as our new principal. We have been continuing our careful exploration of options for school repairs and renovations that meet modern and future educational needs, and have a long-useful life and low long-run costs. We are nearing the conclusion of the water supply and treatment project to meet current safety standards and avoid penalties or shut-down. We are working with our new principal to chart a course for the new school year.

We wish to extend our thanks to the community for your support and input. East Montpelier is a special place and that's due in large part to the incredibly committed people who work hard to make it so.

We welcome you all to attend and participate in our meetings, held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month (except for July) at 6:30 p.m. in Gary Quackenbush's classroom at the school.

— Rubin Bennett, acting chair,  
East Montpelier Elementary School Board of Directors



Built in the 1860s, the 4-C schoolhouse (above) burned in Feb. 1939. Students attended school at the Barclay's home across from today's EMES while the current building, pictured below in the 1950s, was built. Info from Marjorie St. John, who attended school there in the 1940s.



# September Tale

Brian Bishop wrote this piece a year ago, but we were unable to publish it then. It rings just as true a year later.

It's been a very long time since I have turned my back on a friend or family member, but today I had to do it to someone who is both. You prepare yourself mentally for the moment when you have to turn and walk away and not look back, but until you actually are in that spot and feel your throat swelling up and the warmth of the tears stinging your cheeks, you realize you really aren't prepared at all.

Everything had been going just as planned: the long drive out of state to a new place—a new beginning actually. All the assorted items brought in and delivered. Some proper amount of time fussing over what should go where and who was going to hang things or repair things needing work. I'm occasionally handy with a screwdriver or hammer, but most everything was in decent shape when we arrived. It was difficult enough to do the physical things, and thankfully, I had a pair of two-dollar sunglasses to hide my red eyes and the tears. But it was pretty clear, it wasn't working all that well.

We all busied ourselves with assigned tasks: putting clothes away, setting up the bathroom, making the bed and looking at the tiny room and wondering how one could ever survive in that kind of space for very long. Then it was off to get a full four-month supply of just about anything we could think of.

WalMart knew we were coming; they had everything laid out just perfectly for us and all those like us. We found the necessities and things we didn't need as well. The trap was baited just enough to keep us pushing an overflowing cart or two along those aisles wondering if we were going to miss the one thing that would make all the difference. We didn't miss a thing.

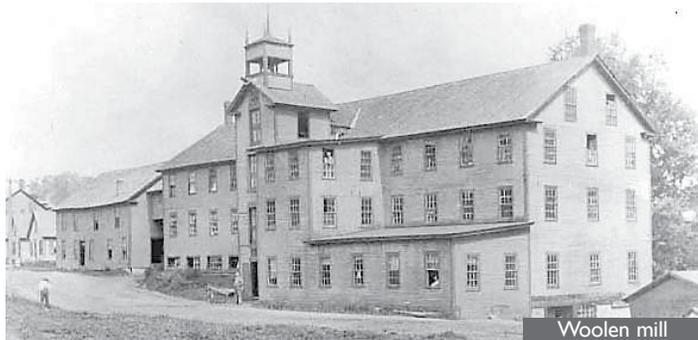
Then, of course, those items had to be put in their places as well. More busyness delaying the inevitable, but the time was near. We took last minute photos – the silly kind and the proper kind that say, "Today is the beginning of a new chapter," and before we knew it, the moment was upon us.

I had rehearsed in my head what I wanted to say. I generally am pretty good at this sort of thing as I think it all out ahead and plan for the moment. But I truly wasn't prepared. She turned to hug me, and I said, "I know you'll do great here. You'll make us proud because you already have in so many ways." She looked at me, and I could feel things slipping away...the rest of the words about calling for any reason, at any time of day or night, that we'll always be here... It all became a blur as if the looming rainclouds were teasing me and staining the thoughts in my head with my own tears.

She laughed, looked right at me and said, "Awww Daddy. You going to be OK?" I hugged her one more time and turned to get in the car. I couldn't look back as she said her good-byes to my wife and then walked to the door of her new home. She was spreading her wings and taking flight. The roots she was tugging on were simply being transplanted for awhile, but it felt like they were being torn out of me. Somehow, the thought of not seeing my baby girl for several weeks or months was not setting at all with me.

After she had gone upstairs, my wife and I slowly backed the car out. We realized she wasn't going to come out and ask us to wait or stop or stay. It was time for us to start back on the long drive home without her. And it was time to hold that feeling close and know that like all parents over the centuries, this rite of passage is just another moment in all our lives that we will remember and cherish in the years ahead.

— Brian and Betsy Bishop and their son, Duncan, now a senior at U-32, live on North Street. Their daughter, Bridget, will begin her 2nd year of college in South Carolina. She still considers East Montpelier her home.



Woolen mill



Pond and covered bridge

## Paulie's Recipe

### Potsfield Pickle

1½ qts. ripe tomatoes, peeled and sliced	Drain. Add: 1 qt. vinegar
2 onions, chopped fine	½ tsp. each cloves and cinnamon
3 green peppers, chopped fine	1 pint sugar
1½ qts. green tomatoes, chopped	½ cup white mustard seed
½ cup salt	Boil together ½ hour.
Let stand over night.	Put in jars and seal hot.

—Mrs. Harvey Warren, from *Friendly Circle Community Cookbook*.

# Chinese Students in Vermont



Charlie (left) and his brother Michael were peer leaders for the visiting Chinese student program.

by *Charlie Hoffert*

On Monday, June 27, a dozen American teenagers met in the library of Montpelier High School. I was nervous. I didn't know anything about Chinese culture, and as I asked around, nobody else really did either. What would the students want to do? What would they act like? I had some image of a ridiculously intense Chinese student whose dragon-parents had force-fed them calculus from a young age. I feared they would have zero social skills and their visit would amount to an infinitely long two weeks.

Well, it didn't turn out that way. Nope, not at all. Maybe it was the delicious Vermont food the students were eating—although they didn't love maple cremees, finding them too

sweet. They devoured the strawberries we picked, and seemed to enjoy strawberry shortcake too. Chinese students commented, "Ah, so this is why Americans are so fat." I had my own adventures in Chinese food, trying some sort of seasoned canned vegetables that were delicious and also some of their noodles. As far as Chinese food goes, the students live for noodles and "hot pot," a very spicy dish for which there is no American equivalent.

For two weeks 30 Chinese students lived, slept, ate, and spoke in the American

fashion in East Montpelier. Mornings we participated in group language activities, and afternoons we explored central Vermont's food, activities, and culture. Activities included canoeing, teaching the students games like Uno and Battleship, and then getting handily defeated in those games once the students figured out the strategy. I can't say that these students were force-fed calculus, but they all were incredibly intelligent.

One of the coolest cultural experiences for the students was the Fourth of July celebration. I learned that they are not allowed to walk on the grass in their city; I remember thinking this was pretty silly as I reclined on the State House lawn to watch the fire-

works. Walking around Montpelier, Burlington, and touring the University of Vermont campus all added to the experience these students enjoyed.

In the end, I was sad to see the students go. I learned that despite living on the opposite side of the planet, they aren't all that different. In fact, they love American culture. This was driven home during one of the afternoons when Chinese students starting singing "You Are My Sunshine" in perfect American style. I couldn't help but smile.



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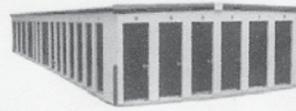
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Volume XXII—Number One  
 September/October 2011

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink

## RALLY DAY EVENTS, SEPTEMBER 10

### Morning & lunch in East Village

- 9:00–11:00** • *Old Brick Church*, Morning Café
- 9:00–11:30** • *Fire Station Field, Kids' Park*, activities galore
- 9:00–10:00** • *Fire Station*, River Walk with Charles Johnson
- 10:00–12:00** • *on the Green*, Farmers' Market
- 10:30–11:30** • *Fire Station*, Sign up for free balloon ride
- 10:30–11:30** • *Old Brick Church*, E.Village History Walk, Dave Coburn
- 11:00–1:00** • *Fire Station*, Firehouse barbecue: burgers, hot dogs, or pre-purchased chicken

### Afternoon & evening at the Elementary School

- 12:00–6:15** • *EMES*, *Signpost* Silent Auction—benefits your free newsletter
- 1:00–1:30** • *4-C Schoolhouse*, Bike decorating for the parade
- 1:30–2:30** • *EMES*, Home-grown parade—short and very sweet
- 2:00–5:30** • *Rec fields*, High School Kick Ball Tournament
- 2:30–3:30** • *Info table*, Sign up for balloon ride
- 2:00–5:30** • *EMES*, Kids' activities and open playground
- 3:00–4:00** • *EMES*, gym Memory Hour
- 5:30–7:30** • *Rec fields*, Tethered hot air balloon rides, weather permitting
- 6:00–7:00** • *EMES gym*, Community Potluck Harvest Dinner
- 7:00–8:00** • *EMES*, *Signpost* Silent Auction: Pick-Up and Pay
- 7:00–8:00** • *EMES*, Live music, conversation and kids' entertainment

### Notices

**Town Office closed:** Labor Day, Mon. Sept. 5; Veterans Day, Nov. 11; and Thanksgiving Holiday, Nov. 24 & 25

**Property tax installment due:** Tues. Nov. 15  
 (due by 5:00 to avoid 1% interest)

For Kellogg-Hubbard Library fall hours, check  
[www.kellogghubbard.org](http://www.kellogghubbard.org), 802-223-4665.

**Deadline for Next Issue: October 1, 2011, to Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, [signpostbcp@hotmail.com](mailto:signpostbcp@hotmail.com)**

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	6:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Development Review Board (DRB)	1st & 3rd Tues	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed	6:00 p.m.	U-32 School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	3rd Mon	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School
East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)	Every Tues	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
East Montpelier Fire District #1	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
Recreation Board	2nd Mon	7:15 p.m.	Elementary School
Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	as needed	7:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
East Montpelier Historical Society	3rd Mon	7:00 p.m.	Town Office/East Calais
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners School
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)	1st Wed	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School