

# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXVI—Number Three

January/February 2016

## elmharris: Wear Your Love

by Marilla Hewitt



Erin Harris's jewelry studio is light and airy and also quite cozy. Sliding glass doors look out over the Winooski as it flows through East Montpelier Village, and work stations line the edges of the room. Everything from the initial design of a piece to the final finishing stages has its own tidy station, tools readily at hand.

Erin's journey to her studio here in East

Montpelier actually began in Vermont six years ago with a decision to buy a bead store in upstate New York. After pursuing a career in social work, Erin realized that her life needed to take a different path. And so, in the span of two weeks, she quit her job, bought the store and moved back into her parents' home, five hours away leaving her boyfriend, dog, and Vermont life temporarily behind.

Erin had been working with metal, selling her work at craft shows and knew

*Continued on page 9*

### IN THIS ISSUE

E. Montpelier Eats ..... page 4

Weathervane ..... page 6

Inside EMES ..... page 8



## Michael Duane & Ellen Knoedler At Home and Abroad

by Erik Esselstyn

Every year in early February, East Montpelier residents near Markham Road have come to expect a glowing nighttime bonfire celebrating the Feast of St. Bridget, the marker of Ireland's first signs of spring. The fire is part of a long-standing annual open house/potluck that Michael Duane and Ellen Knoedler share with dozens of neighbors and friends. Drawn to Vermont in the mid-1970s, Michael and Ellen settled on Markham Road in 1985. Their busy lives together began a decade earlier on the Pine Ridge Sioux Reservation in South Dakota.

Following college in 1975, Michael and Ellen met while working at the Red Cloud Indian School, Ellen as a teacher, Michael in charge of the boarding school's maintenance. After two years they drove to Ellen's home in Wisconsin, married, and moved to Vermont. By 1977 Michael was a student at Vermont Law School and Ellen was teaching at a tiny school in nearby Braintree.

*Continued on page 3*

## 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

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

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

**Ann Stanton: Business Manager**  
223-5321 profstanton@aol.com

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

**Eddie Miller: Managing Editor**  
229-0677 signposteam@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

As I write this at the beginning of December, we are still awaiting our first real snow fall, and Town Meeting Day seems very far away. However, Town Meeting was the first thing I thought of recently when I stopped to read the commemorative plaque on a pretty fountain in the center of the small Midwest town where our son lives. The fountain was dedicated to a family that has “lived in and served” the town “for generations since 1883.” It is this type of constancy and devotion to local civic life that every small town depends on to assure sound governance and operations and to maintain the vibrancy and exchange of ideas that characterize our annual Town Meeting.

So as the winter slowly unwinds with the days starting to lengthen, I hope you will think ahead to March 1—of attending the town and school meetings and enjoying the best pot luck meal you may have all year. But, also, please consider volunteering your time, talents, and skills to help make our town run. Below is the list of officers we will elect on March. Note on the back page of this issue when petitions for elective office are due. A petition to run for office requires only 20-25 signatures, and you’ll find that collecting those signatures is a great way to meet or renew contact with friends and neighbors in town. Please think about serving East Montpelier. If you try it, I guarantee you’ll like it.

—Eddie Miller is a long-time resident and volunteer in East Montpelier

*Town Moderator, 1-yr term*

*School District Moderator, 1-yr term*

*Selectboard Member, 3-yr term*

*Selectboard Member, 2-yr term*

*Lister, 3-yr term*

*Auditor, 3-yr term*

*Collector of Delinquent Taxes, 3-yr term*

*First Constable, 1-yr term*

*Second Constable, 1-yr term*

*Cemetery Commissioner, 5-yr term*

*Planning Commissioner, 3-yr term*

*Planning Commissioner, 3-yr term*

*Planning Commissioner, 3-yr term*

*Planning Commissioner, 1 of 3-yr term*

*EM Elementary School Director, 3-yr term*

*EM Elementary School Director, 2-yr term*

*U-32 School Director, 3-yr term*



*Ellen and Michael, continued from page 1*

After the arrival of daughter, Nora, in 1979 and Michael's graduation from Vermont Law School a year later, the family returned to Wisconsin for two years to be with Ellen's parents. However, their fondness for Vermont drew them back in 1982, to a rented house on Rt. 214 in North Montpelier. Today Ellen and Michael still speak of their deep affection for Vermont's unique sense of closeness with neighbors and a friendliness that flows from the state's small size. When they eventually settled on Markham Road, two sons, Will and Eamon, had joined the family and a busy Vermont life was underway.

Ellen has worked at the East Montpelier Elementary School since 1994, initially serving as the librarian and now teaching sixth grade for the past five years. She maintains with quiet thoughtfulness that "reading is the single most important thing anyone can do for themselves." That conviction emerged in her classes with a focus on each student actually making books in class. "It is so empowering for kids to see themselves as authors," she shares, mentioning that today, 20 years later, "students will speak of excitement about making their book—which they still have."

Michael's early role with the State of Vermont Attorney General's Office was with Child Protective Services, for 15 years serving as the lawyer who supervised court trials and arguing cases before the Vermont Supreme Court. He spoke with an audible sigh about the challenges of that program since his service nearly 20 years ago. Following his tenure with Child Protective Services, Michael served for 10 years as the attorney for the Vermont Department of Agriculture and today as Director of the General Counsel Division of the Attorney General's Office.

Their large mudroom of rough-hewn boards speaks to much more activity than their professional lives imply. Heavy winter boots, cross country skis, and snowshoes underscore their comments about enjoying the Vermont outdoors. The Markham Road land includes 40 acres of managed hardwood forest. And Michael speaks with evident pride and enthusiasm about being a steward of that timber stand. "I just enjoy working the landscape, managing for wildlife and eventual commercial timber harvest." Both Ellen and Michael spoke of their appreciation of the varied Vermont landscape—the blend of meadows and woods as well as the active dairy farms.

While the love of their Vermont home-  
stead permeates every story about their land, Ellen and Michael make it very clear they love to travel. They have recently returned from a 10-day visit to Iceland with their daughter

and her husband. They have visited the Costa Brava region of France and Spain plus Andorra, Paris, and England in the recent past. And every summer the family spends time with Ellen's family at a lake in northern Wisconsin. Recently the American Southwest has become a new favorite destination, kindled by totally new dry landscapes and the lure of the archeology of early civilizations.

Shining through their enjoyment of travel looms Michael's unerring focus on visiting Ireland whenever he can. "Every chance possible —about every two years." That allure flows from deep Irish roots plus a sheep and cattle farm, still in the family, on the Dingle Peninsula. Ellen and Michael both wax fondly of their interest in the archeology, the landscape, the music, the Gaelic language, and the blend of Ireland's land and sea. Lest there be any doubt, on entering the mudroom one encounters a greatly enlarged color photo of Michael and Ellen side by side near a yellow wheat field—Dingle Bay in the background.

At home their community involvement includes the East Montpelier Historical Society, the Vermont Woodlands Association, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and the Vermont Farm Bureau. In addition, Michael currently serves as the East Montpelier town moderator.

A major family shift will soon take place on Markham Road as son Will, a recent graduate of the Vermont Law School, his wife, Victoria, and infant daughter, Penelope, have purchased Elaine Manghi's former house at the end of the road. Their other son, Eamon, who also lives nearby, works as a civil engineer and ski instructor in Waitsfield and Nora teaches school in Colorado. It seems quite likely the vibrant tradition of community service, the lively engagement of family and festival, and a love of the land, so carefully nurtured by Ellen and Michael, will enjoy a long future on Markham Road.

*—Erik Esselstyn and his wife Celina Moore live in North Montpelier*



Pastels by Wendy Soliday, opposite page and right.

## East Montpelier Eats

### Sweet Dreamzzzz

Not long after moving back to our farm in '09, I noticed my honey habit was getting expensive. While scrubbing the kitchen floor one day, I pondered what friend might want to join me in beekeeping. Twenty minutes later, a man with an Eastern European accent appeared in our driveway, asking my husband, Andy, and me if we'd mind him setting some beehives in our field. Our jaws dropped and we said in unison and in disbelief, "Would we mind?"

The man, an old friend and neighbor whom Andy had not seen for decades, was Ivan Rus who now splits his time between Woodbury and Florida. He offered to teach me how to care for bees and harvest honey, something he'd seen his grandfather do in Slovenia, and learned himself in this country.

My father-in-law, Stanley Christiansen, raised bees in the '30s. Thanks to his old hive boxes and to Ivan sharing his honey-harvesting equipment, I only needed to purchase two veils (one for me and one for another interested person, one a full-length bee suit, and the other a head-to-waist veil), some

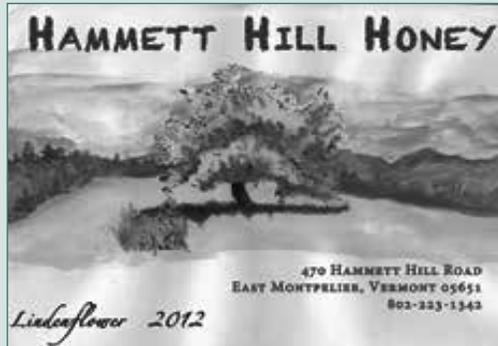
boxes, frames, foundation, a couple of hive tools. Stanley told us that you have to spend money to make money. Or was that to eat honey? Oh—and one must register one's hives with the State Agriculture Department.

The Vermont Beekeepers Association and other local groups offer plenty of advice for the plenty of bumps along the way—encouragement and enthusiasm too. My advice to anyone starting out is to have a partner, join the Beekeepers Association, and go to as many gatherings of local beekeepers as you can. And do it! Imagine a cold January day,

trudging through the snow to your hives, pressing your ear to the box. Tap it and hear the 90+ degree ball of bees buzz. Beekeeping is always interesting.

My favorite recipe is Lazy Lady's Baklava. Onto one-third cup of walnuts drizzle honey to taste. You're done, the dishes are done. When I make the real thing, I like to vary it with differing spices, citrus, and nuts.

*—Jennifer Zollner lives on Hammett Hill Road with her husband Andy Christiansen*



TERRY J. ALLEN

### Sharing a Meal at Town Meeting

With the New Year upon us, it's time to turn our thoughts to Town Meeting and the traditional potluck lunch, on Tuesday, March 1st, at East Montpelier Elementary School. The potluck is the perfect opportunity to get together, talk about local issues, and taste the very best of home cooking.

Just as in previous years, bring a dish—appetizer, salad, main courses, sides, bread/rolls, or dessert. Label your food,

vegetarian or meat, and let us know if it is gluten-free or contains nuts. You should have enough food to feed 8-12 guests—we anticipate 120 people in attendance.

Please drop off all food items in the cafeteria between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. and be sure to collect a lunch ticket. If you are unable to bring a dish, \$5.00 will buy you one mighty fine lunch. We haven't run out of food yet, so please be mindful of the line behind you when filling your plate. You can always come back for seconds. And, when all is done

and clean, don't forget to take your serving dish home with you; we cannot be responsible for dishes left at the school.

As always, volunteers are needed to help with set-up, serving, and clean-up. You can also be part of the kitchen crew and help with cooking and coordinating food served at the potluck.

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

## An Open Letter to East Montpelier Residents

The East Montpelier Recreation Board has been recently working on a new project at the recreation fields. Between EMES and the fields is an overgrown row of tall hardwoods. Invasive species such as buckthorn and ground hornets have made this space inhospitable and even a bit of a hazard. We have put forth an idea that we are undertaking in cooperation with the selectboard and the EMES administration and school board to transform this into a welcoming park environment.

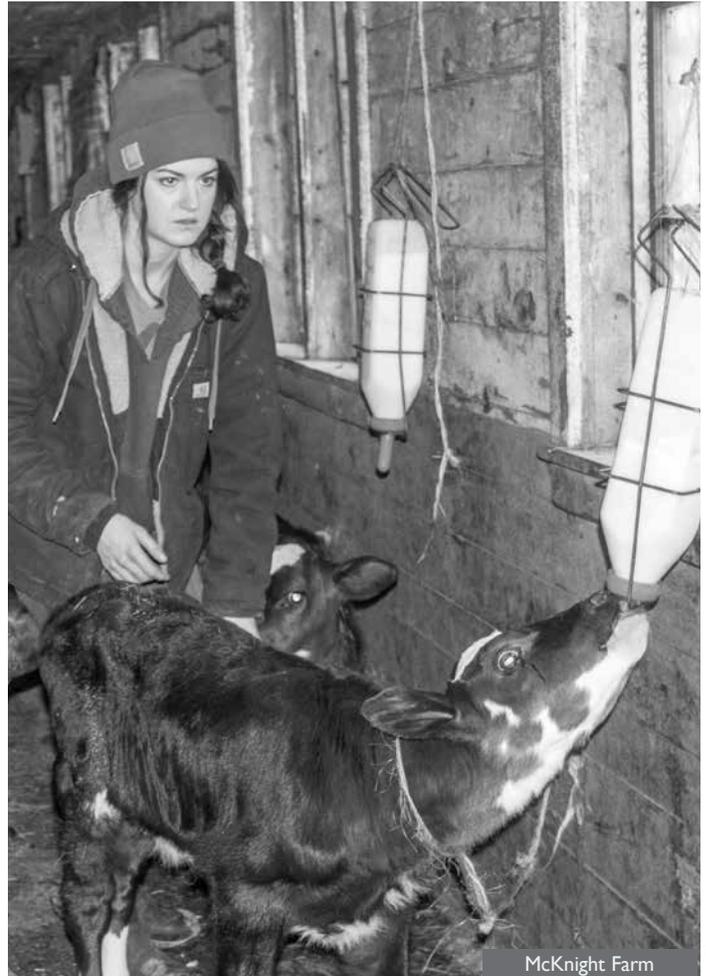
The goal is to open up the space visually and make it accessible to families. We hope to put in picnic tables and other resources to make this a destination for families to enjoy. The first step is to remove all of the invasive species and clean up the hazardous trees and hanging deadwood so that we can better plan for the future phases of this park development. Future steps include working with Paul Cate, our town forester, to develop a conservation and future growth plan for the beautiful hardwoods growing in this hedgerow. Other ideas include the incorporation of an outdoor learning/performance space in the form of a platform or stage and other educational elements. We hope this space will provide a unifying feeling to the two properties—the school grounds and the recreation fields. We also hope this park will give East Montpelier a destination for people to gather and add opportunities for us to come together as a community.

The EMRB has been working on the renovation and beautification of our recreation space over the past few years. We have had contributions recently from our local Boy Scouts as young men working on their Eagle Scout projects have done volunteer renovations on some of our buildings. We installed new soccer goals and a batting cage for the youth sports programs. We are also working on plans to replace the storage shed/concession stand which is in some disrepair.

We thank all those folks who have supported our programs and efforts. Without your volunteer support we would not be able to do the things we do for East Montpelier.

Sincerely,

Phillip Heinz, Chair, East Montpelier Recreation Board



McKnight Farm

## At the Twin Valley Senior Center

Open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, the Twin Valley Senior Center in East Montpelier, offers a variety of classes, groups, and ever-changing activities. For example, we have tax preparation assistance, a twice-daily “Bone Builder’s” exercise class, as well as Tai Chi, foot, blood pressure clinics, and flu clinics. We also offer a monthly Death Cafe, where people can speak freely about issues surrounding end of life. Most importantly, we offer lunch at the center as well as Meals-on-Wheels if you’re not able to come to the center—though we also offer door-to-door transportation.

It is central to the mission of TVSC that we NEVER charge for any of our services. Donations are always welcome, but whether it’s exercise or meals, we want to emphasize that you will never be asked to pay.

We ask \$2,000 per year from each of the six towns we serve to provide these services to those who are not able, in some cases, to afford the fees of their own local senior center.

We have no endowment, nor are we run by any particular municipality, so our existence is only possible with donations from individuals, small state and federal grants, and donations from the towns we serve. Anything we can do to assist our seniors in coming to our center, we are willing to do.

## 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  
<http://eastmontpelier.com>

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

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

**Town/Zoning Administrator:**  
Bruce Johnson, [eastmontadmin@comcast.net](mailto:eastmontadmin@comcast.net)

**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

**Assistant Animal Control Officer:**  
Elliott Morse 839-8723

**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  
[sethbgardner@hotmail.com](mailto:sethbgardner@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

- Keaton George Martin, son, born Oct 27, 2015, to Anne & Bruce Martin
- Penelope Clare Duane, daughter, born Nov 1, 2015, to Victoria Capitanelli & Will Duane

#### DEATHS

- Charlene Geake died Oct 30, 2015, wife of William Geake
- Nancy Morris died Nov 1, 2015, wife of Robert Morris

#### MARRIAGES

- Mary Fettig & David Maynard, Oct 1, 2015
- Katherine D'Angelo & Jeremy Jordan, Oct 3, 2015

#### PROPERTY TRANSFERS

- Conrad & Anne Ormsbee to Vermont Land Trust, 171.5 acres, conservation easement, Center Rd
- Conrad & Anne Ormsbee to East Montpelier Trails, trail easement, Center Rd
- Ormsbee Living Trust to Fairmont Farm, 147 acres open land, Center Rd
- Jayne Parker to Jayne Parker Trust, single family dwelling & 4.7 acres, Cherry Tree Hill Rd
- David Heller Revocable Trust to Jennifer Busconi, 3.41 acres open land, VT14N
- Duane Wells to John & Barbara Buswell, 3.1 acres open land, Captain Kidd Rd
- Dwight Hulzenenga to James & Kristin Renner, single family dwelling & 1.6 acres, Center Rd
- Leo & Joyce Dutil to Terry Bissell, 3.8 acres open land, Brown Drive
- Benti Hoiska to Tjalling Hoiska, single family dwelling & 16.2 acres, Green Rd
- The Ricker Irrevocable Living Trust to Glen Kirkpatrick, 44.6 acres open land, Banfield Rd
- Washington Electric Coop to Huntington Homes, easement
- Jon & Linda Hutchins to Eric Hutchins & Heidi Hutchins Cosgrove, single family dwelling & 3.2 acres, Boulder Ridge Rd
- Peardon Donaghy & Elisabeth Widmer to The Elliston-Huck Living Trust, single family dwelling & 38.6 acres, Horn of the Moon Rd
- Grace Lentz to Christine Lentz Supplemental Needs Trust, seasonal dwelling & 12.4 acres, Hagggett Rd
- Marilyn & Edward Blackwell to Colin & Chelsea Blackwell, single family dwelling & 7.03 acres, Center Rd
- Jonathan & Suzanne Winston to Town of East Montpelier, single family dwelling & 48.52 acres, US2

*Below are excerpts of the meetings of EM's key governing boards. Complete minutes are available online on the school and town websites.*

### SELECTBOARD

#### October 5, 2015

Motions Passed:

- to adopt the 2015/16 Winter Roads Policy
- to accept the Hutchins Rooding proposal for the town office entryway roof replacement at a cost of \$3,000
- to authorize Town Administrator Johnson to sign Municipal Assistance Grant Agreement

#### October 19, 2015

Motions Passed:

- to accept Errors and Omissions report from the EM Listers and the changes to Grand List
- to warn the amendments to the town zoning regulations for November 30, 2015 as presented by the Planning Commission
- to delegate the authority to approve excess weight permits to the town administrator
- to approve the minutes of the Vicious Dog Hearing of September 28, 2015 that was continued to October 5, 2015 as written
- to approve the minutes of the Selectboard meeting of October 5, 2015 as amended
- to appoint Gene Troia to the Selectboard to fill the remainder of Steve Sparrow's term

#### November 2, 2015

Motions Passed:

- to authorize the Zoning Administrator, on December 1, 2015, to file an enforcement action in the Environmental Court on the Notice of Violation against the Clement/Buck family at 365 Mays Way unless the accumulated piles of trash and the camper are removed by that date
- to maintain current insurance offering to employees for 2016, with a town contribution ceiling at 90% of the BCBC platinum plan premium
- to maintain stipends to those not taking town health insurance at \$1,600 per year
- to authorize Town Administrator Johnson to sign agreement #BC1701 with the State of Vermont, for the replacement of a culvert on Murray Road
- to authorize Town Administrator Johnson to sign the High Risk Rural Road agreement for County Road Agreement with comments as noted in the minutes
- to appoint Chris Racanelli as Green Up Day coordinator for 2016
- to approve the minutes of October 19, 2015 as amended

---

**November 16, 2015**

Motions Passed:

- to authorize the expenditure of \$1,291.36 to continue the New England Municipal Resource Center annual support agreement
- to authorize Seth Gardner to sign a letter of support for the Cross Vermont Trail Recreation Facilities Grant Application
- to authorize Town administrator Johnson to represent the Town at the closing on the Winston/Silberberg property and to approve a warrant for the amount needed at the closing, up to \$217,000

---

**PLANNING COMMISSION****October 1, 2015**

Discussion items:

- potential Gallison Hill growth area with Peter Heitmann
- plan for future discussions and people/groups to Invite
- estimated timeline for SB action on proposed zoning amendments
- update on FY2016 municipal planning grant application for EM Village future planning

**October 15, 2015**

Discussion items:

- review of EM zoning history with former members Earle Ellingwood, Dave Coburn & Carroll Witham
- plan to examine conserved land, farm land, and if possible, lands in current use
- heard reports from the Central VT Regional Planning Commission, the Zoning Administrator and the DRB

**November 5, 2015**

Discussion items:

- zoning history with Austin Cleaves
- evaluation of current zoning in relation to existing land use and resources
- solar array project proposal in the Village on Cassini property: 5 times larger than McKnight Farm array. Town will be a party to PSB hearings

**November 19, 2015**

- presentation by & discussion with Kate McCarthy, Sustainable Program Director for the Vermont Natural Resources Council
- discussion of possible solar projects in town

---

**DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD****September 1, 2015**

Motions passed:

- to close the hearing for application #15-021 by James Shanley & Kim Kendall due to withdrawal of their application
- to approve subdivision permit #08-013 submitted by David Heller to amend his prior subdivision permit for property on 1912

VT14N on the condition that missing information on new boundary lines is included on final mylar

**October 6, 2015**

Prior to the meeting, at 6:30pm, the DRB conducted a site visit at the East Montpelier Recreation Field, 555 Vincent Flats Road Conditional Use Review of Application #15-027, submitted by the East Montpelier Recreation Board seeking a setback waiver as part of plan to improve the appearance and usefulness of the property next to the EMES

- approved the waiver of the front setback to 50' from road centerline and place the shed no closer to the school property line and the portable toilet shall be situated to meet the full front setback requirement

Conditional Use Review of Application #15-026, submitted by Bruce Landry on behalf of Central Vt. Habitat for Humanity for construction on 1248 US2 and setback waiver to relocate a garage on the same property

- approved the setback waiver due to the topography of the property and granted conditional use permit

Appeal by Deb Glottmann of zoning permit #15-024 for Duane Wells to construct an auxiliary building at 30 Cutler Heights

- upheld the appeal based on the fact that the accessory dwelling is greater than 30% or 600 sq. ft.; however, it is a permitted use in Table 2.4 and the ZA can issue a permit at an appropriate size

Sketch plan review of proposed Manghi subdivision

- approved waiver of the survey of lot 2 and a frontage of 60'

**October 20, 2015**

- continuance of appeal by Deborah Glottmann of zoning permit #15-024 of Duane Wells
- approved continuation of appeal from 10/6/15 and later continued again until the 11/3/15 meeting

**November 3, 2015**

Continuance of appeal by Deborah Glottmann of zoning permit #15-024 to Duane Wells

- denied Deborah Glottmann's appeal of the ZA's decision to issue permit #15-024 to Duane Wells, with the following condition that the living area must be no greater than 600 square feet

DRB election of officers as follows: chair, Rich Curtis; vice chair, Carol Welch

---

**EMES BOARD****September 23, 2015**

Residency hearing

- the board went into executive session to discuss student issues. In open session, the

board moved to override the supt's decision on residency pending adequate documentation from the family.

Regular meeting

Motions Passed:

- to approve the consent agent
- to approve Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Policy (F30)
- to rescind earlier separate policies on Harassment (F20), Hazing (F24), and Bullying (F33)

**October 19, 2015**

Motions passed:

- to appoint Flor Diaz-Smith, Stephen Looke, and Edie Miller as voting members to Act 46 Study Com- mittee; Emily Goyette as ex-officio member
- to approve Substitute Teacher Policy (D6)
- to approve Alcohol & Drug Free Workplace Policy (D8)

**November 16, 2015**

Motions passed:

- to approve the consent agenda
- to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters with no followup action

---

**U-32 SCHOOL BOARD****October 7, 2015**

Initial part of meeting was public budget forum

Motions Passed:

- to rescind the Unscheduled Time Policy (F32)
- to accept the resignation of Sara McKenna, Paraeducator

**November 4, 2015**

Motions Passed:

- to appoint a third voting member to the WCSU Full Board: Carl Witke will join Kari Bradley and Adrienne Magida as voting members
- to accept the resignation of Dorothy Singleton, food service worker

**November 18, 2015**

Public Budget Forum: discussion included many aspects of the budget in process

**December 2, 2015**

Budget discussion continued with supt presenting a new draft

Motions passed:

- to approve a residency waiver as presented
- to approve this request for extended leave of absence.



## Inside EMES

### Students Interview New Faculty at EMES

*Sixth graders who are part of the EMES Student Leadership Team worked in pairs to interview three new members of the staff at EMES, guidance counselor Mary Beth Langevin, physical education teacher Michael Blanchard, and music teacher Samantha Gelfon.*

#### Mrs. Langevin

*by Tegan O'Donnell and Ella Bradley*

We have three new teachers at our school, and one of them is our guidance counselor, Mary Beth Langevin. She works two and one-half days weekly helping kids work out social problems. As a kid, she grew up in Vermont and lived in Randolph for most of her childhood. All of the teachers in our school are great, so Mrs. Langevin fits right in!

Mrs. Langevin decided to come to EMES because she had worked here before as a sub, and she found she liked working with the teachers and kids at EMES. She also liked the beautiful woods around the school, so she decided to teach at EMES.

Another question we asked was: what do you like about your job? She told us, "I enjoy kids telling me that they used certain skills I've taught them. I like seeing kids work together to solve problems and become happier."

Mrs. Langevin's hobbies include: learning, reading, and expanding her knowledge. She also loves to hike in the fall and see the amazing foliage we have. She also loves spending time with her family.

Our final question was, what was your inspiration to do the work that you do? She said "I used to be a classroom teacher. I noticed kids struggled with emotional problems, and I wanted to help kids with that. I've tried many different jobs, but I always came back to teaching. It's interesting to see how different schools are different from each other." Mrs. Langevin is a great new addition to our school.

#### Mr. Blanchard

*by Riley Reed and Maeve Hoffert*

Mr. Blanchard is one our new teachers. He teaches P.E. at East Montpelier Elementary School. Riley and Maeve volunteered to interview him and write an article about him. They decided to do the interview on October 28, 2015 at 11:45. There

were three main questions and one bonus question.

Riley and Maeve interviewed Mr. Blanchard outside during recess. He said that he had other opportunities to go to different schools, but he turned them down. He chose this school because he saw that the teachers and the kids here were kind. It was a good work environment for him and for his kids to go to school.

Mr. Blanchard had a few answers about why he likes his job. He told us that he liked that it was different every day, that he gets to see everybody twice a week, and he likes to teach all the kids here. Another reason that he likes his job is that he likes to move, and being a P.E. teacher, he gets to do just that.

Among other things, Mr. Blanchard has lots of different hobbies. He enjoys water activities, such as surfing and canoeing. Other activities he likes are rock climbing, snowboarding, and carving wood. Above all, he enjoys playing with his two sons and dog.

Mr. B was inspired by many things. His mom was a big part, because she was a teacher, too. He was and still is very athletic, so he wanted to use his knowledge to help others become more athletic while having fun. Mr. Blanchard wanted his skills to benefit everyone, and so he became a P.E. teacher. He loves his job!

#### Ms. Gelfon

*by Mindy Laquerre and Grace Lane*

Our new EMES music teacher, Miss Samantha Gelfon, is a very interesting person. She grew up in Vermont, and she now lives in Burlington. She teaches music classes Tuesday to Friday.

Miss Gelfon decided to teach in East Montpelier because she wanted to be back in Vermont. She also thinks the community is very caring, and is glad to be a part of it. Miss Gelfon loves all the aspects of her job, including teaching chorus and band, and everything in between.

In her free time, Miss Gelfon enjoys physical activities like skiing and camping. She also enjoys more quiet activities such as cooking and reading, and music.

Miss Gelfon was inspired to become a music teacher after being in the Vermont Youth Orchestra when she was a child; she wanted to pass along the magic of music to other aspiring musicians. She is very passionate about her work and is a great addition to the East Montpelier family.

*elmharris, continued from page 1*

that she was interested in making jewelry, so a bead store seemed to be the next logical step. As she settled into ownership, she realized that she didn't enjoy the retail aspect of it, but also that she didn't have enough love or passion for beads. They just weren't the medium that called to her.

After paying off the bead store, she and her husband moved back to Central Vermont. Erin had been managing a gallery, but has since made the transition to making jewelry full-time, which she says is amazing, exciting, and sometimes a little scary (as any entrepreneur can attest to). "I've never loved a job this much. I'm putting 'job' in quotes; I love coming into my workspace every morning. It's just inspiring!"

Erin calls herself a sentimental metalsmith and most enjoys creating jewelry that makes a connection to the person who is wearing it. That connection transcends the aesthetic value of a piece: "Jewelry where I really have to sit down with a client and talk about what they're thinking, what they want the jewelry to say, and how to tell their story through metal."

Erin's sentimental metalsmithing began after the very unexpected death of the dog who was her constant companion in New York. Gonzo, a handsome black lab, was always at her side; he went to work with her, and was always near her desk, waiting to be petted, sniffing her hand, or giving kisses. The sudden loss prompted Erin to make her first reliquary. Traditionally a reliquary is a vessel that contains items associated with saints. Erin's reliquaries, made of fine metal and designed to carry items held sacred by the person wearing them, are a slightly different interpretation on the term, yet no less important to the wearer.

Erin describes the creation of her first reliquary as a cathartic process, as she made it for herself. It contains some of Gonzo's fur, some fuzz from his tennis ball, and some dirt from the place where he was buried. On the front of the piece is a drawing she had done of Gonzo and then transferred to the metal. "I drew his face, and included parts that were really important to me—his little eyebrows, the mohawk of fur on his nose. I wore it all the time"

The concept of reliquary jewelry was well received, and in 2008, Erin was asked to make someone a reliquary. The man who commissioned the piece wrote Erin a note after giving it to his wife, saying that his wife said it was the most thoughtful gift he'd given her in twenty years of marriage.

Since these initial pieces, Erin's craft has evolved. She used to hand-draw the image to be transferred to metal but notes that that method wasn't as accurate as the way she does it now, with the use of a computer program.

People who don't have pets may have trouble understanding the depths of grief and loss when a pet dies. Some will say, "It's just a dog; you can always get another dog." Meanwhile, the mourner feels desolate and misunderstood. Erin is able to reassure and comfort while producing a meaningful, wearable memorial. "It's kind of like doing social work through jewelry."

Erin has made memorial jewelry for cats, dogs, horses, fish, cockatiels, a ferret, even a polar bear paw, from a paw print shrunk down to jewelry size. It started with pets, but Erin has also made earrings for her mom, using handwriting from letters that her aunt had; one side says 'love, Mother' and the other 'love, Father.' She has made jewelry from babies' handprints and children's fingerprints. "I'm working on a bracelet right now containing charms for pets, children, and grandchildren. Of course, I do make other jewelry, but this is the work that matters most to me. I make jewelry that makes people cry—that's kinda my thing. My jewelry invites you to wear your love."

Information about Erin's business is available at her website, [www.elmharris.com](http://www.elmharris.com), as are links to the social media platforms she uses. After the holiday season, Erin plans to start offering small metalwork classes.

*—Marilla Hewitt is a Central Vermont native, a writer, and avid knitter.*



WENDY SQUIDAY

## Mindful Winter Wellness



WENDY SOLIDAY

Frosty mornings, snow and ice, cold temps, darkness, colds, and flu ... it's easy to remember the more challenging parts of winter. Let's not forget the adventure, fun, and beauty that winter brings as well. Staying well in winter speaks not only to our physical well-being but also encompasses the mind, spirit, and emotions. Often times our lives feel too busy to take care of ourselves.

Our nervous systems tend to be either subtly (or not so subtly) on overdrive, creating constant low (or high) levels of stress response in our bodies. Our overall state is affected which also impacts the way we meet others and the world around us.

Here are some simple, quick things you can do to build a practice of Slowing Down, Noticing, and Building Awareness.

Tip #1: As you're getting your coat and boots on, take a moment to pause to encourage your body to relax. Then step outside and try to stay relaxed as you meet the cold.

Tip #2: Sitting or standing, place your hands gently on your ribs. Relax your shoulders. Simply breathe 10 times. Allow your breath to travel until you feel it with your hands.

Tip #3: Notice your exhale. Let the breath out through your mouth: listen for the soft sound of your breath passing between your soft lips. Repeat whenever you're stressed, tense, or holding your breath.

Tip #4: Keep your spine in mind: move daily! Whether you're standing or sitting you can create spinal movement in the three planes (side to side, twisting, front and back).

Tip #5: How well do your hip joints move? Well-functioning hips are super important for pretty much everything. Discover the hip hinge on the video clip mentioned below.

Tip #6: Pause. Notice. Feel. Repeat at least three times a day. Think of it as your own personal reset button!

Enjoy!

Receive a video clip for guided examples of tips 2, 3, 4, & 5 by emailing [amy.emergeyoga@gmail.com](mailto:amy.emergeyoga@gmail.com)

—Amy LePage lives with sons Oliver and Cyrus Hansen in the White Pine Co-Housing Community. She sees private clients at her office in Montpelier and teaches small group therapeutic yoga classes and prenatal and birth preparation classes in Montpelier, East Montpelier, Northfield, and Berlin.

## WCSU Act 46 Study Committee at Work

Act 46 was enacted last spring by the Vermont Legislature. In an effort to assure a high quality education for all Vermont students at a sustainable cost, Act 46 mandates that districts examine how they operate with an eye toward increasing both quality and efficiency. Washington Central Supervisory Union, comprising the five towns that operate their own elementary schools and send junior and senior high school students to U-32, has created its own independent study committee to carry out this investigation. East Montpelier's representatives on the committee are Flor Diaz-Smith, Emily Goyette, Stephen Looke, and Edie Miller. Stephen and Edie are chair and vice-chair respectively.

Starting last November, the group is meeting approximately twice a month in addition to small-group subcommittee work to carry out the following charge:

- Using all available resources and information, including significant community input, determine whether the formation of a union school district or another structure is advisable. Prepare a report that makes a recommendation for the advised structure (that specifically considers inviting other districts) for the State Board of Education that includes all elements required by Title 16 §706b and meets the stated goals of ACT 46.
- Present a recommendation or progress report by June 30, 2016.

Since each town will vote on any recommendation made by the committee, it is very important that each of our communities participate in and understand the significant work that has been undertaken. Please try to attend scheduled meetings and contact your representatives.

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**



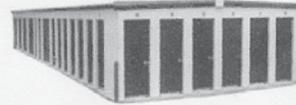
**CATAMOUNT  
SOLAR**

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

**Insurance Agency  
of New England, Inc.**

PO Box 1 Village Acres • East Montpelier, VT 05651  
P: 802-229-4177 • F: 802-229-4199  
Toll Free: 877-448-1553 • www.iaofne.com  
Auto • Home • Business • life • Health



**KC's Performance Auto Care**

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

**Casey Northrup**  
Owner/Technician

**802-224-7170**

4423 US Route 2  
East Montpelier, VT 05651

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'S SOUTHERN AUTOS**

D.B.A. 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

**Central Vermont Humane Society**  
**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



Celebrating 50 Years of Saving Lives.

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

Tuesday - Friday: 1 to 5 pm    Saturday: 10 to 4 pm  
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



Vermont  
handicrafts  
Gifts  
Vermont  
cheese  
Mail-order  
maple products

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



Free Estimates  
Fully Insured  
Quality Work

**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)

- *Signpost* archive
- Links to other town info
- Business supporters

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

CALENDAR

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- Thurs. Jan. 14* deadline to petition to put articles on the Town Meeting Warning (5% of registered voters) at least 98 legal signatures needed
- Mon. Jan. 25* deadline for petitions to run for town offices (1% of registered voters on checklist) at least 20 legal signatures needed
- Wed. Feb. 24* deadline for voter registration prior to Town Meeting
- January 25* DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO SIGNPOST

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

- Wed. Jan. 20* WCSU Act 46 Study Committee, 5:30 – 9 p.m. Rm 131 at U-32
- Wed. Jan. 27* WCSU Act 46 Study Committee, 5:30 – 9 p.m. Rm 131 at U-32
- Wed. Feb. 10* WCSU Act 46 Study Committee, 5:30 – 9 p.m. Rm 131 at U-32
- Wed. Feb. 17* WCSU Act 46 Study Committee, 5:30 – 9 p.m. Rm 131 at U-32
- Sat. Feb. 27* pre-Town Meeting Forum
- Tues. Mar. 1* Town and School Meetings, EMES, 9:30 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	as needed		<i>contact: blusig@aol.com /229-5441</i>
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 Senior Living Initiative	as needed		<i>contact: rhazel@ezcloud.com</i>
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 Wed	6:00 p.m.	U-32 School