

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XXVII—Number Six

July/August 2017

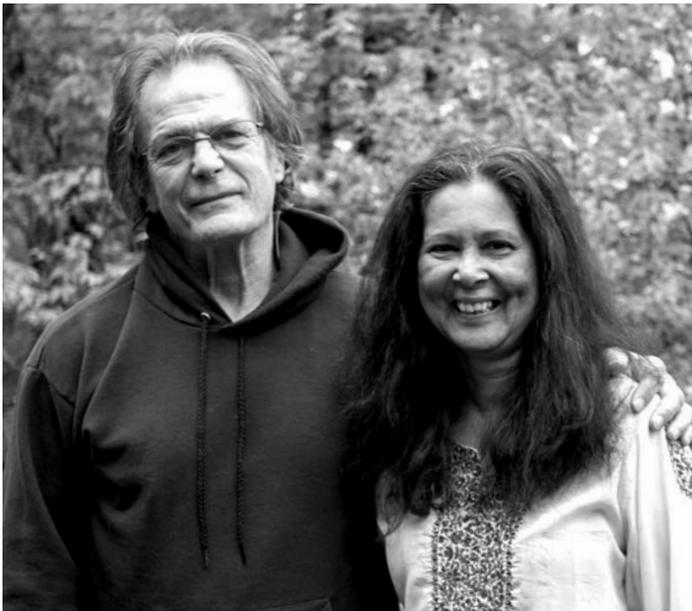


Photo: Terry Allen

Chris and Sue Racanelli: Our Community is Enriched

by Kate Rader

Chris, a northern California native, and Sue, born and raised in Tanzania, met in Bombay in 1976. At the urging of his stepfather, Chris had gone “walkabout.” With a plane ticket and \$2,000, he traveled across India for four months. In Bombay, he visited his stepfather’s former business partner, the publisher of a tourist magazine where Sue was working in the magazine’s office. Having left college, she had remained in Bombay and was living in a Christian youth hostel. Her family had already migrated to San Francisco from Tanzania.

The two were married in San Francisco in 1980 and made their home in San Diego where Chris was completing college. There they both started careers in social services. Chris was in direct services, teaching job skills to developmentally disabled

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Nature’s Niños: A Special Business

by Ann Stanton

This issue’s business, Nature’s Niños, was envisioned and brought to life by Betsy Barstow in May 2016. The name itself reveals its purpose: it’s a bilingual (English/Spanish) preschool where children explore, work, and play among nature’s wonders. Betsy’s goals are for children to experience wonder and awe, ask questions, and absorb the beauty of the land, art, music, and each other.

As she explained, the seed was planted 30 years ago when she spent four years living in Cali, Colombia, working in two bi-lingual schools. There, she acquired a near-native

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Photo: Julia Barstow

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Top of the Signpost

IT'S YOUR TURN

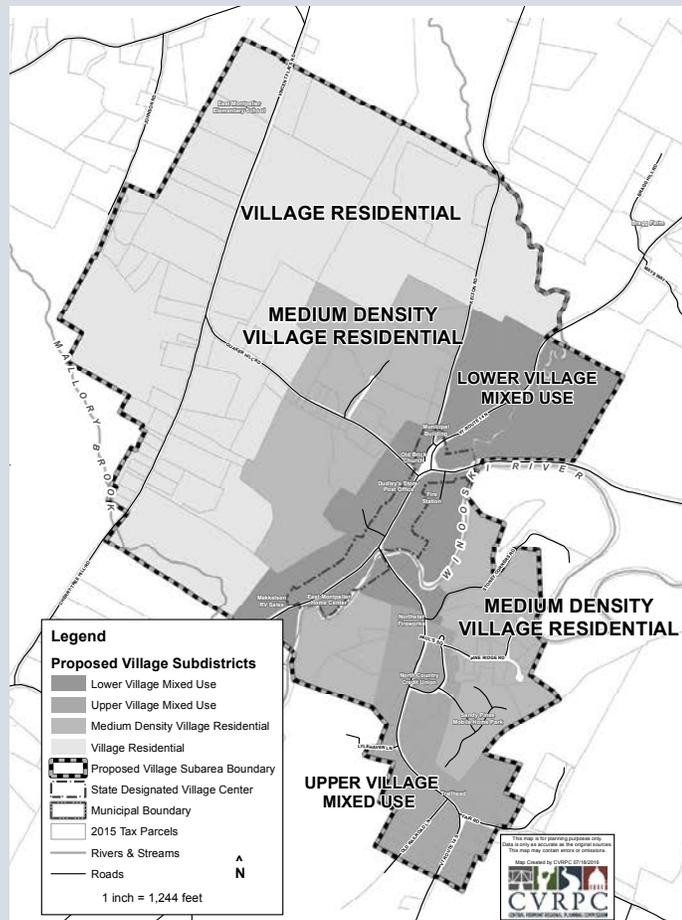
The September/October issue of the *Signpost* has, for many years, been written by you—the townspeople of East Montpelier. You've described how you conserve energy, how you use technology, the origins of your road names, where you like to hike, bike, and stroll, the wildlife you see in our environs, what you want the town to look like in 25 years, among many other topics.

This year we want to know about the creator in you. Whether for work or play, we all create—a recipe, a photo, a garden, a tree sculpture, a song, chainsaw art; you name it. Tell us what you and your neighbors (in case they're bashful) do to earn a living, for fun, or just to use up left-overs. Who makes incredible meals, whimsical and/or practical birdhouses, puppets, clothes, mittens, etc. etc. etc.

Send us a photo and/or a very short (100 words) description about your creative side. Send your contributions to Barb Ploof at Signpostbcp@hotmail.com no later than Monday, July 31.

New Draft Village Master Plan

Check out the newly completed Draft East Montpelier Village Master Plan on the Planning Commission's page on the Town Website. A second public informational meeting will be on September 21. Please submit comments to Jean Vissering, chair, at jeanviss@attglobal.net or at 223-3262.



Farewell to a Fine Town Father

David A. Coburn, 1934–2017



How might one characterize a “town father” and a “town mother”? One might expect them to be friendly, active in community organizations and events and proud of what their town represents. Such persons might work to promote the town’s activities and lend a hand with town projects when needed. They might be leaders and/or active participants of civic groups. They may even have a fine sense of the town’s history, its present status in the state, and provide ideas for its future development. If these descriptors help define a “town father”, then many of us would have to agree that David A. Coburn certainly filled the bill in East Montpelier. We join to say farewell to this outstanding citizen who passed away on April 17 of this year.

Dave loved his family and was proud of each generation and all they accomplished. He and Paulie had six children: Laurie, Wendy, Cheryl, Scott, Brett, and Lisa. In 1984, they also took in a young man from Iran, Mohsen, who needed a home while studying in the U.S. Mohsen and his family remain a part of theirs today. Ten grandchildren brought joy to Dave’s heart.

Dave grew up in the handsome, historic family home on Daggett Road off Route 14 north of the Village, and he knew its history quite well. About twenty years after his marriage to Paulie, they moved back there, continued to raise their family, and to welcome family and friends over the years. Both became active in town organizations. Dave served on the planning commission in the 1970s, was moderator of the U-32 annual meeting for five years, served as zoning administrator and was our state representative in 1979–80. He was a member of the *Signpost* crew for a number of years and worked with

the Jean and Wes Cate Community Fund group. He donated daffodil bulbs which he dug from his property and provided them on Rally Day to anyone who would plant them around East Montpelier road signs. His stentorian voice was familiar at Town Meeting, which he attended through this year. In 2010 he was officially recognized as East Montpelier’s Citizen of the Year.

The East Montpelier Historical Society grew more active with the publication of *Across the Onion*, our town history written in 1983 by Lyn Blackwell and Ellen Hill. Dave did much to lead this group over the past several decades and wrote numerous pamphlets telling the history of various people and places in town. He led field trips on foot and by bus, sharing his prodigious memory of how life transpired in earlier times. He masterminded several exhibits at the Vermont History Expo, even building models of the displays to aid in planning them. Dave embraced the technology age and put his computer to fine use in creating these exhibits.

He was exceptionally well organized which may have stemmed from his college degree in Business Administration. He had a sense of getting things done, and he worked effectively with others to see things through to completion. He was especially proud of a Rotary project of delivering free dictionaries to area school children. Dave was particularly good at connecting people and programs to make life richer for everyone. His ideas, contributions, and accomplishments have helped to weave the fabric of our town life in so many ways. His boundless energy will be missed by his family and friends alike.

—Sandal Cate is president of the East Montpelier Historical Society; Dave was serving as secretary at the time of his death.

adults. He later became manager of a ground-breaking new program, Supported Employment, finding employment for persons with developmental disabilities in local businesses. Meanwhile, Sue worked for nonprofit organizations as director of marketing and public relations, grant-writer, and librarian for the San Diego Community Foundation.

In his twenties, Chris had worked for the owner of rental properties, learning many of the ins-and-outs of property management, renovation, and maintenance. Chris and Sue decided they would purchase rental property instead of a home, sharing mortgage costs with tenants.

In their 30 years in the rental business, they bought one-of-a-kind properties, fixing each to the style of the original period. Experience taught them that renting property is a partnership between tenant and landlord. They learned about tenant relations, government regulations, maintenance, and safety and saw their fair share of good and bad. While Chris developed hands-on skills, dealing with tenants and the physical aspects of the rental business, Sue dealt with the administration of paperwork: leases, credit reports, regulations, and vendors.

In the meantime, Chris's folks moved to New York and sang the praises of the East Coast. The Racanellis grew tired of San Diego's urban sprawl and pavement. They wanted somewhere small and green. Their relatives suggested looking around New England and thought Great Barrington, MA, or Burlington, VT, might be a good fit. Neither appealed to them because the areas were full of traffic and crowds, the sort of thing they were trying to leave. Then, one day driving around, they came upon Montpelier, and their search was ended.

They found their house on Brazier Road on the Internet—a For Sale By Owner. They claimed it but couldn't leave San Diego immediately. It was another two years before they moved here physically, having to make arrangements for their properties. Since moving to East Montpelier, Chris has made periodic trips to oversee their management, but they hope to be free of that obligation in the future.

Once here, they dove right into our community life. Sue organizes the Town Meeting Day lunch, recruiting volunteers for ticket taking, food distribution, and the cleanup afterward. She volunteers at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library on Wednesdays, taking children's books to outlying towns. And she is a Vermont Foodbank volunteer, helping to distribute fresh vegetables at the monthly "Veggie Van Go" at Central Vermont Medical Center.

Sue also joined the League of Women Voters and has been the idea person and wordsmith for the Central Vermont chapter. She was behind the League taking over the coffee service at Town Meeting, and she and Chris make sure that the coffee and donuts are there for Town Meeting attendees.

For his part, Chris has taken on the coordination of GreenUp Day in East Montpelier, making sure the iconic green plastic bags are available, and recruiting helpers to sort through the contents of those bags, separating trash from recyclables and returnables. That takes persuasive skills.

Harking back to his history of social outreach, Chris mentors a student at EMES and has recently begun preparation as a guardian ad litem (GAL). In that capacity he advocates for children involved in court cases. A judge appoints a GAL in every child abuse or child neglect case and sometimes in delinquency and other cases. The GAL makes recommendations to the court for the child's best interests in and out of court until the case is over.

In addition to the "small and green" that first attracted them to the area, the Racanellis have been impressed by our sense of community, availability of reliable, honest tradesmen, and the range of performance arts to be found here in this small part of our small state.

Sue and Chris share their home with their little dog, Tuta (who will bring you all her toys if you stop by), a moderately noisy rooster, six hens, and two unintended chicks. There's also an active phoebe's nest tucked under a corner of their porch roof. They clearly have found a home here.

—Kate Rader is active in the League of Women Voters. She likes vegetable gardening, cooking, and reading mysteries.

Something New at Orchard Valley Waldorf School

Orchard Valley's Farm & Forest (OVFF) mixed-age kindergarten has a new shed thanks to a partnership with students at the University of Vermont. Each year the UVM Natural Resource School's Senior Capstone Class takes on a project that involves creative problem-solving in the real world. OVFF assistant teacher Kelly Davis, a graduate of the UVM program, helped make the connection. After brainstorming together, the UVM student team designed and built a shed for the kindergarten using local and recycled materials.

Three students spent four days onsite at OVWS building the shed, as well as considerable time offsite pre-cutting all of the pieces for it. They also learned a lot about Waldorf education as part of their work.

Orchard Valley's Farm & Forest program is currently enrolling students ages 3–6 for the 2017–18 school year. Contact orchardvalley@ovws.org for more information.

Colombian accent and fluency. With an undergraduate degree in education and graduate work in Early Childhood Education, Betsy is a Vermont-licensed Early Childhood Educator with over 20 years of teaching experience, including teaching Spanish at EMES. The preschool itself is credentialed by the State Agency of Education; it is an ACT 166 pre-qualified pre-kindergarten that offers 10 hours of publicly-funded pre-k per week for 35 weeks.

Nature's Niños follows the school calendar. There are two sessions—Monday/Tuesday and Wednesday/Thursday—from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with extended care offered until 4 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday. Two summer camps for children aged 4–6 are scheduled for July 5–7 and July 10–14.

These facts and more are readily available from the website—naturesninios.weebly.com. Beyond the objective facts dwell beauty and magic only a poet could convey. I'll try. The setting alone is spectacular: a classic Vermont farmhouse, surrounded by 52 acres of fields and woods with wonderful views of the valley. Outdoors are gardens, trails, a sugar shack, swamps, and woods, with artfully located resting points such as a weathered picnic table, a giant flat "observing rock," a rope web for bouncing, a collection of wood rounds and logs for building, as well as child-sized garden tools for working in the gardens. Indoors the children have their own space—two big rooms. The typical preschool areas like blocks, dress-up, and a Spanish story corner are rendered especially interesting and beautiful with art and artifacts that Betsy has collected in her life and travels.

To appreciate the magic fully, I visited twice, meeting the children, exploring a swamp with them ("Betsy, I have a discovery!"), which included violets, marsh marigolds, and "monster slime"; observing a mother duck sitting on her nest;

listening and watching the felt story, told in Spanish, about the mud girl (Niña Loda). Mother's Day was approaching, so the day's work entailed children digging up mint plants by the side of a small stream and potting them as gifts for their mothers. Earlier in the spring, they participated in sugaring. They also plant seeds, weed, harvest apples, and make applesauce. Almost every step of each day, there are songs sung in Spanish: songs for walking, transition from indoors to out and back again, greeting the earth and sun "Buenos Días querida tierra y querido sol." There's even a song for washing hands before snacks—*lávate las manos*—and a shared joke: The song ends with "ahora están limpias" (now hands are clean) which the children change to "sucias" (dirty) with giggles and glee.

Betsy has created an exquisite tapestry of a preschool, weaving together the best of what other preschools offer. Like Montessori, the children take responsibility for themselves and do meaningful work each day. Like Reggio Emilio, they are artists who make music and art. Like Waldorf, they practice gratitude and mindfulness. This is a peaceable kingdom, and Betsy is a warm presence who shepherds and guides with love and care, clearly having planned meticulously and now, in the moment, enjoying every minute she spends with the children, as she finds learning opportunities everywhere. On top of all this is the bonus of happy, engaged children hearing and learning to speak and understand Spanish.

After story time, each child takes a turn with the talking stick (an ordinary stick) and names something for which she or he is grateful. After hearing from others about the trees and sky, one little girl pondered awhile and then said, "I'm grateful for this school." I couldn't agree more.

—Ann Stanton is a returned Peace Corps volunteer (El Salvador) who speaks Spanish. She lives on the corner of Bliss and Center Roads with her husband, David Connor.



Mapleroot Farm

Kathy Friedland, affectionately known as "Squirrel", began making crackers seven years ago in Corinth. She shared them with friends and family, and everyone loved them. When the owner of the Southend Market in Bradford, VT, tasted them, he was hooked and began selling the crackers in the store. An informal market outside the Cookeville Mall in Corinth became the local farmers market. Kathy sold her crackers there and began baking and selling fresh bread. This little farmers market became known as the Cookeville Food Court. Squirrel's Rustic Pizza Crusts, Squirrel's Bagels, and cookies soon followed. Kathy uses organic ingredients and cuts the sugar in her recipes by using maple syrup as well.

For the past 14 years, Kathy has grown an ample supply of organic vegetables. These days, you can buy Squirrel's baked goods, Kathy's veggies, and cut flowers right from her home on County Road across the road from Powder Horn Glen Road. The farm stand is open on Thursdays from 3 p.m.–6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Kathy tells us that there is a \$100 licensing fee for starting up a home bakery. Other than that, the costs are your ingredients and baking pans. You can contact Kathy at: Mapleroot@hotmail.com. You can also visit Mapleroot Farm and Squirrel's Crackers Facebook pages.



Thanks For Greening Up

Green Up Day has come and gone, and I wish to thank everyone who helped keep our town clean as they collected 41 illegally dumped tires and a record 4,620 pounds of garbage along our roadways.

Special thanks to:

- Mike Garand and the road crew for working the trucks and picking up bags
- Robin Gannon, Karen Martin, Todd Hill, Jen Wiater, and principal Alicia Lyford of East Montpelier Elementary School for their ongoing support
- Dudley Store, Town Office, Plainfield Hardware, and East Montpelier Elementary School for distributing Green Up bags
- Bragg's Farm, Dudley Store, East Montpelier Home Center, East Montpelier Post Office, East Montpelier Elementary School, KC's Performance Auto Care, McKnight Farm, Morse Farm, Old Meeting House, Orchard Valley, and Plainfield Hardware for hanging posters at their facilities
- The Select Board for their support and Town Office staff for getting the word out
- Casella Waste Management for a tire recycling discount
- The Cate Community Fund for ensuring a successful transition of duties to the new Lunch Committee and continuing to pick up costs affiliated with Green Up Lunch
- Ross Hazel who graciously took photographs
- Cub Scout Pack 742 and Eagle Scouts Devin Burroughs and Riley Flynn
- Students and teachers from East Montpelier Elementary School and Orchard Valley Waldorf School
- The more than 120 civic-minded neighbors who volunteered time to clean up our streets and roads
- My neighbor Paul Erlbaum, former Green Up Coordinator, for being there for me on Green Up Day

Thank you to all volunteers assisting at the collection site—Mike Duane, Ed Johnson, Paul Cate, Carl Etnier, Steve Chadwick, Steve Knowlton—who separated trash, washed recyclables, and placed tires in the truck. Additionally, Ginny and Dave Burley, and Jonathan Rieder turned up and pitched in throughout the day. Bob Onne used his truck on multiple runs, collecting heavy items placed along the roadsides, including one huge couch!

If you have any ideas or thoughts on improving Green Up Day or if your business or place of employment would like to display a poster next year, send me an email or give me a call, 225-6032.

AND THANKS AND HATS OFF TO GREENUP DAY
COORDINATOR CHRIS RACANELLI WHOSE MONTHS
OF HARD WORK PAID OFF FOR EAST MONTPELIER.

Green Up Lunch

It was a new team coordinating the Green Up Lunch this year and they did an awesome job. HATS OFF TO Denise Roy, Earl Schrader, Jennifer Zollner, Kim Swasey, and Steve Campbell. What an awesome job they did finding local sponsors, coordinating a free raffle, getting donations, recruiting help, and putting on a fabulous lunch!

Green Up Lunch tasted as good as it looked—from the organic sandwiches that were gluten- and nut-free to the colorful fruits and veggies, donut holes, homemade cookies, coffee, tea, cider, and milk. Every detail was well taken care of, and the only worry was whether there would be enough food for everyone (there was, and more) Sixty of our neighbors stopped by the cafeteria and partook.

THANKS TO OUR NEIGHBORS who made cookies and helped with securing donations as well as preparation, setup, and working at the lunch—Jane Burroughs and son Devin, Paul & Sandal Cate, Ela & Simeon Chapin, Sue & Putnam Clayton, Diana & Malcolm Fielder, Teresa Doyle & Chris Reed, Riley Flynn, Morgan & Andrew Greenwald, Rachael Grossman, Bev Lavin, Katie McLinn and Peter Gill, Edie & Marty Miller, Cristin & Patrick O'Donnell, Carolyn Pastore, Dr. Lucy Patti, Barbara Ploof, Norma Raymond, Mary Redmond, Lori & Bob Rice, and Sue & Mark Stephen.

THANKS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES who donated to Green Up Lunch and the free Raffle—Bragg Farm, Cabot Creamery, Capitol Grounds, Cate Community Fund, Dunkin' Donuts, Hunger Mountain Coop, Manghi's Bread, Maria's Bagels, McKnight Farm (Seth Gardener), Morse Farm, Price Chopper, Shaws Supermarket, Vermont Coffee, and Vermont Compost.

THANKS TO THE CATE COMMUNITY FUND who had faithfully organized Green Up Lunch since 2005, and while unable to continue this long-cherished tradition, gave of their time, money, and effort to make sure the transition to new organizers went smoothly, wisely, and respectfully. I especially wish to acknowledge Barbara Ploof who gave the new committee all her notes, attended the first meeting with carrot cake, and was always available to answer questions.

Sincere thanks and gratitude to the new Lunch Committee who knew they had big shoes to fill and did so admirably.

—Chris Racanelli

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Elliott Morse 839-8723

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Service Officer: Rachael Grossman 223-3177

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Photo: Ross Hazel

Friends of Coburn Pond: An Update

Despite the rainy spring and early summer, many people continue to enjoy the property that surrounds the former quarry on Coburn Road, now known as Coburn Pond. Along with people walking with friends and family, wildlife enthusiasts, dog walkers, and a few people who love riding their horses around the pond, we've even seen a few swimmers during the unexpectedly hotter days of May.

Friends of Coburn Pond is a small core group of individuals who remain from the larger group of people who helped to protect the swimming hole from being filled in as a constructed wetlands several years ago. We represent the interests of many neighbors and others who have been enjoying, in all seasons, the site which is still owned by Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans). This is the final year of the monitoring period—a time when VTrans and other agencies watch to see if their plantings in the alternate constructed wetlands to the south of the pond and the meadow area to the north of the pond have taken hold as outlined in the Act 250 permit design. VTrans will conduct site visits in the spring and fall of 2017 and issue a report. The Friends of Coburn Pond are parties to the Act 250 process and will take part these activities. We will facilitate open communication with all stakeholders, including the residents and representatives of the Town of East Montpelier, for whom Coburn Pond is the only public swimming hole.

We are hoping that VTrans and the town can negotiate the transfer of the title to the town with necessary covenants to protect public access to Coburn Pond for the future in perpetuity. The Friends of Coburn Pond are willing to take leadership in managing the property for the town and the public: to develop and implement a plan for parking and a few minor amenities at the entrance of the property, and to maintain the property for the highest quality experience for everyone, including wildlife and neighbors.

We look forward to expanding our group over the coming season. Look for announcements of events throughout 2017; natural wildlife identification walks and an occasional picnic are two of our ideas for this year, so far. If you love to swim, walk, observe wildlife, and enjoy other forms of pondside recreation, please consider how you might help to support the long-term protection of the old Coburn Road quarry site.

If you have ideas, or seek more information, please contact Renée Carpenter at 454-7303 or renehc6@myfairpoint.net. Check out Friends of Coburn Pond on Facebook and join.

—Renée Carpenter, Ross Hazel, and Thomas Weiss
are core members of Friends of Coburn Pond

Legislative Update

As of early June, 2017

Greetings! Below is a summary of selected legislation passed **after** mid-April, with action to date noted.

As **budget bills** start in the House; H. 518 passed on March 30 by a vote of 143-1. The final version, approved also by the Senate, similarly does not raise property or income taxes or use new fees and stays below the projected revenue growth rates for FY18. It allocates \$8.3 million for mental health and developmental services. It invests \$2.2 million for the Childcare Financial Assistance Program, plus \$300,000 to bring child care subsidies to the 2017 federal poverty level. It dedicates \$3 million to the Vermont State Colleges and makes a one-time payment of \$880,000 to merge Lyndon and Johnson State Colleges. It also funds a \$35 million affordable housing bond.

H. 509 is the **tax yield bill** that sets the annual education property tax rates. It creates a balanced commission for consideration of the healthcare issue and lowers the average residential property tax rate 2.2 cents from last year's rate. This change is based on the belief there will be healthcare savings statewide that will show up in next year's school budgets and that funds used to bring rates down will be replenished through lower spending next year. It stipulates that all healthcare contracts (other than those settled before July 1) will end on September 1, 2019, to re-create the "one time opportunity."

Both H. 518 and H. 509 were vetoed on June 6 by the governor following a decision by the legislature not to adopt his late-in-the-session proposal to require a shift in school employee healthcare negotiations from local entities to a statewide contract. Questions remain; a "veto session" is scheduled for June 20-21.

H. 527 approved amendments to the East Montpelier Town Charter and merged the Town and East Montpelier Fire District No. 1. The bill was signed into law on June 5.

The **economic development** bill (S. 135) supports apprenticeships and internships for technical careers and now starts in middle school. It allows six new Tax Increment Financing districts. The business contribution rate for workers' compensation is lowered from 1.75 percent to 1.4 percent. The bill also creates a new Green Mountain Secure Retirement Plan to provide a portable plan funded by employees; interested employers may contribute.

Act 49 (H. 513) contains House and Senate changes to Act 46 (the **school governance** bill) to allow greater flexibility around governance models and variables such as differing levels of assets/debt. Those who have not reached consensus will have more time and flexibility to develop alternative governance structures.

S. 8 establishes a **State Ethics Commission**. It prohibits legislators and certain members of the administration from

lobbying for one year after leaving office, restricts sole-source contracting and contributions to statewide officers and candidates, mandates financial disclosures for legislators and statewide candidates, and creates a state code of ethics. It requires municipalities to adopt a conflict of interest policy for elected officials, appointees, and employees.

S. 22 removes civil and criminal penalties for possession of one ounce of **marijuana** by those above age 21 and goes into effect on July 1, 2018. It permits the growing of two mature and four immature plants. Use remains illegal in vehicles and public venues; penalties are imposed for enabling consumption by minors. It creates a commission to develop a legislative proposal for a tax-and-regulate system. Gov. Scott vetoed this bill; next steps are unclear at this time.

The **Family Leave Insurance** bill (H.196) passed the House and is pending in the Senate. It enhances Vermont's existing Parental and Family Leave Act by adding a financial component to an employee's right to take leave under certain criteria, including birth of a child, medical emergencies, or care of a family member. The insurance provides employees with up to six weeks of paid leave at 80 percent of gross salary at the cost of 0.141 percent of an employee's income.

H. 233 adds new criteria for large development projects already going through Act 250 (such as subdivisions consisting of more than 6 units) to either avoid or minimize **forest fragmentation** of the state's highest priority contiguous blocks and habitat connectivity areas. If going into a forest block, a developer would be required to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate impacts on forest blocks. This bill passed the House and awaits Senate action.

S.103 regulates **toxic substances** and arose from data gaps found during the PFOA contamination crisis. An intergovernmental body would evaluate chemical inventories, identify risks to human health or the environment, and propose measures for reducing risks. New groundwater sources must be tested for specified chemicals prior to use as a well. It regulates children's products containing chemicals of high concern. After passing the House with changes, the bill was returned to the Senate.

S.9 is the **Poultry Farming** bill increasing the threshold from 1,000 to 20,000 birds under which inspection is not required for the slaughter or preparation of poultry of the producer's own raising on the producer's own farm. The 5,000- and 20,000- level bird exemptions require an approved label.

I'm happy to discuss issues or provide earlier legislative updates. I can be reached at 249-9306 or kjessup@leg.state.vt.us.

—Kimberly Jessup is the representative for East Montpelier and Middlesex in the VT legislature

Town Weathervane

MILESTONES

Births

- Eric Charles Sullivan, son, born in March 2017 to Helen & Zachary Sullivan
- Rhys Daniel Feld, son, born in April 2017 to Danielle Heaney & Benjamin Feld

Deaths

- David Coburn died in April 2017, spouse of Paulie
- Pam Hudson Pollock died in June 2017 spouse of Bill Pollock

Property Transfers

- David Hill to Linda Wheatley, mobile home & 1 acre, Rock Rd
- Roger & Linda Hall to Caitlin LaClair & Andrew Carpenter, residence & 1.3 acres, Cummings Rd
- Peter Wells to Peter & Kristin Wells, residence & 43.1 acres, VT14N
- Carroll, Joan, and Susan Witham to Paul & Julia Haynes, 18+/- acres, North St
- Dennis & Evelyn Searles to Michael Searles, residence & 1.1 acres, Clarke Rd
- Mark Catlin, Administrator, to Soren Pfeffer & Irene Facciolo, residence & 1.5 acres, Kelton Rd
- Philip Davidian to Willa Davidian, residence & 11.92 acres, Mabuhay Dr
- Wayne & Helen Clark, Trustees, to Thomas & Ann Johnson, correction of easement deed, off Wheeler Rd
- Wolfgang Rohrs & Louise Frazier to Thomas & Ann Johnson, residence & 8.2 acres, Wheeler Rd
- Bruce Chappell Trust to Bruce Chappell, residence & 14.07 acres
- Bruce Chappell to Seth Chappell, residence & 14.07 acres, Center Rd
- Bruce Chappell Trust & Janet Chappell to Templeton Prop. LLC, residence & 133.9 acres, Center Rd
- Arthur & Mary Wissell to Seth Nelson & Kate Grims, residence & 3.29 acres, Towne Hill Rd
- David O'Vitt to Robin Schulte, residence & 7.33 acres, Kelton Rd

SELECTBOARD

April 3, 2017 — Motions passed:

- to adopt the Conservation Application Packet as amended
- to appoint Florence Morse to the vacant auditor position for the remainder of the first year of the 3-year term through 2018 Town Meeting
- to approve the VTrans Structures & Paving Grant Program application for the Muddy Brook Road project without including "Complete Streets"
- to approve the VTrans Structures & Paving Grant Program application for the Center Road/Mallory Brook culvert engineering study without incorporating "Complete Streets"
- to submit to the VT Agency of Transportation a Municipal Highway Class 2 Roadway Grant Application for the repair and repaving of Muddy Brook Road, in the amount of no more than \$218,750, and a Municipal Highway Structures Grant Application for an engineering study of the Mallory Brook culvert on Center Road, in the amount of no more than \$12,000.
- to adopt the FY18 Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways

- to adopt the Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards
- to adopt the Certificate of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory
- to adopt the 2017 East Montpelier Local Emergency Operations Plan
- to adopt the necessary resolution to change the signatories on the town's Northfield Savings Bank checking account to Town Treasurer Welch and Assistant Treasurer Brown, and to authorize Chair Gardner to sign a letter to the bank providing notice of this action
- to appoint Rachael Grossman as the East Montpelier Town Service Officer for a term ending March 2018
- to appoint Casey Northrup as the East Montpelier representative to the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District for a term ending March 2018

April 17, 2017 — Motions passed:

- to authorize Town Administrator, Bruce Johnson, to complete the contracts with Pike Industries
- to authorize TA Johnson to sign a three year contract for lawn mowing with Creative Visions
- to appoint the slate to the Recreation Board: Michael Blanchard, Jack Zeilenga, Robert Fitch, Janice Aldrich, Alex Robb

May 1, 2017 — Motions passed:

- to preliminarily accept the \$80,587.25 bid of Hebert Excavation Corporation and, once submitted documentation has been confirmed, authorize TA Johnson to award the construction contract to Hebert Excavation Corporation
- to authorize Chair Gardner to sign the soon-to-be-created cover letter and TA Johnson to submit the completed application to VHCBC for a \$10,000 affordable housing planning grant for the Old LaPerle Farm property
- to authorize TA Johnson to accept the FY18 ESRI ArcGIS license quote at a cost of \$700

May 8, 2017 Special Meeting — Motions passed:

- to approve Access Permit Application 17-017 for a residential curb cut for access by easement to a new lot over the Witham parcel at 1974 Bliss Rd
- to authorize TA Johnson to sign and submit the amendment request for FY16 VTrans Structures Grant BC1701 for the Murray Rd culvert replacement project

May 15, 2017 — Motions passed:

- to implement the 2017 Town Meeting resolution of welcoming immigrants by posting the language prominently in the Town Office
- to opt in to the orthodontic rider of the Northeast Delta Plan
- to appoint Paul Winters to the Recreation Board

PLANNING COMMISSION

April 6, 2017

- Reviewed and discussed East Montpelier Village Master Plan, Ch. 6

Motion Passed:

- to re-adopt the Planning Commission Rules of Procedure and Ethics

April 20, 2017 — Discussion items:

- Draft EM Village Master Plan Appendix C
- 2018 East Montpelier Town Plan Update

Motion passed:

- to elect the following officers: Chair, Jean Vissering; Vice Chair, Julie Potter; Corresponding Secretary, Kim Watson

May 4, 2017

- Reviewed and discussed the draft EM Village Master Plan Chapters 1, 2, 3, and Appendix A

May 18, 2017

- Reviewed and discussed the draft EM Village Master Plan Chapters 4, 5, 6, and Appendices B.1, and B.2, and Executive Summary

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

March 21, 2017 — Motions passed:

- to approve Application #17-004 by applicants John & Patty Connor, to subdivide the 10.7-acre Cherry Tree LLC parcel located on the north side of Towne Hill Rd between Cherry Tree Hill Rd and US2.

May 2, 2017 — Motions passed:

- to approve Application #17-013, submitted by Duane Wells, to subdivide his property on Banfield, Clark, and Captain Kidd Rds, a 15.22-acre undeveloped parcel known as Lot 10 of the Wells 2016 Subdivision, which is a portion of the original Lot 9 from the Wells 2006 Captain Kidd Rd Subdivision with the right-of-way to lot 10 as presented
- to waive the surveying of the full lot as long as the small lot is surveyed in the sketch plan review for a proposed 2-lot subdivision of the 17.8-acre Witham property located at 1974 Bliss Rd

EMES BOARD

April 10, 2017 — Motion passed:

- to write articles of agreement supporting a consolidated district model

April 24, 2017 — Motions passed:

- to accept the resignations of Heidemarie Holmes-Hess and Gary Quackenbush, expressing appreciation for their years of service

May 15, 2017 — Motions passed:

- to approve the on-bargaining contracts
- to approve the principal's contract
- to accept the recommendation to hire Alexander Morse as a 0.5 FTE art teacher
- to accept the recommendation to hire Claire Gallagher

U-32 SCHOOL BOARD

March 29, 2017—Board reorganization:

- The following officers were elected: Adrienne Magida, Chair; Kari Bradley, Vice Chair; Carl Witke, Clerk
- WCSU Full Board meetings will be held on the 4th Wednesday of the month
- When the full board is not meeting, the U-32 Board will meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month@ 7:00 p.m.
- The official postings locations are: Town Clerk's Office, WCSU office, *The Times Argus*
- WCSU Exec. Committee: Kari Bradley, representative; Adrienne Magida, alternate
- WCSU Full Board voting members: Carl Witke, Adrienne Magida, and Kari Bradley
- Negotiations Committee: Carl Witke, representative; Scott Thompson, alternate
- Policy Committee: Jonathan Goddard, representative; Scott Thompson, alternate
- Transportation Committee: George Gross, representative; Karen Bradley, alternate
- Central Vermont Career Center Regional Advisory Board: George Gross, representative; Karen Bradley, alternate
- Truant Officer: Eric Bennett
- Finance/ Facilities/Capital Budget Committee: Kari Bradley, Scott Thompson, Karen Bradley
- School Quality Committee: Kari Bradley, representative; Adrienne Magida, alternate
- Accepted the end of year resignation from Beth Allen
- Accepted the end of year retirements of Bo Carey and Sharon Newcomb

April 5, 2017 — Motions passed:

- Approved the reductions in force of the Academic Coordinator position and the Design and Technology position
- Approved the resignation of Jeffery Warnen
- Approved the non-renewal of Travis Garand, foodservice personnel

May 3, 2017 — Motions passed:

- Accept the end-of-year resignation of Jason Reichert and thank him for his service to U-32
- Approve the following appointments: Pauline Cheeseman, Science Teacher; Debra Koretz, World Languages Teacher – Spanish; Stephen Sheeler, Middle School Social Studies Teacher; Erin Wysolmerski, Science Teacher; Molly Butts, Physical & Health Teacher; Peter Arsenault, Physical & Health Teacher



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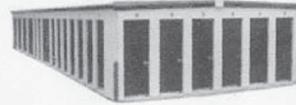
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CALENDAR

Mon. July 17 (weather permitting), 6 p.m. EM Historical Society croquet game/ice cream social at the Doyle/Reed home on Rte. 214

Mon. Aug. 21, 6 p.m. potluck supper and program on Early School House of EM and Calais, E. Calais Recreation Center. For information contact Sandal Cate at sandal@sover.net

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon–Tues. July 3–4, Town Office closed

Mon. Sept. 4, Town Office closed

The deadline for the next issue of the Signpost is August 1.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee
Development Review Board (DRB)
East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) Board
East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)
East Montpelier Historical Society
East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)
Planning Commission (PC)
Recreation Board
Selectboard
U-32 School Board

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

contact: cjohnson2090@gmail.com / 223-7745
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Four Corners Schoolhouse/E. Calais
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Elementary School, Art Room
Town Office Building
Elementary School
Town Office Building
U-32 School