

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXVIII—Number One

September/October 2017

East Montpelier Creates

Each year, the September/October issue of the *Signpost* kicks off a new volume of our newsletter with an issue written mostly by you, our readers. This year we asked you to share the creative efforts you are engaged in—whether for work or play or simply to use up left-overs. We were delighted with the number and breadth of contributions. If your neighbors' descriptions of their creative activities inspire you to share your own, please send them in and we'll post them on the *Signpost* website.

Chris Abrams, Artistic Jack-of-all-Trades



Chris Abrams began her creative life at the knees of her mother and grandmother, who taught her how to sew, knit, and crochet. Her love of fabric art continued as she studied spinning and weaving at Goddard, expanding further into making both traditional and art quilts. More recently, she has been exploring mixed media collage and encaustics (hot wax painting). Chris describes

herself as an artistic jack-of-all-trades who is never bored. She lives surrounded by beauty, both the baubles she collects and the pieces she creates.

Richard and Alice Angney, Creative Grandparents

I see creativity in my grandparents, Alice (Gee) and Richard (Grant) Angney, in the many, many things that they do for me. My grandmother is a very creative cook. Gee makes all kinds of fun food for me, including "happy toast"! I know that she likes to make food for others and is very good at creating recipes like gluten-free cookies



for Elissa. My grandfather taught me how to ski. He works hard every day in the winter creating ski trails. I have my own private ski area thanks to Grant. *Submitted by JT Kress (age 9)*

Sarah Brock, the Why of Creativity



I can't describe my creative process so I'm thinking about the why: delight (the building of "imaginary gardens with real toads"); raw need ("the caged bird" singing); curiosity (that *Signpost* query about creating itself). Maybe those impulses bundle into what one poet called the "force that through the green fuse drives." My

Italian friend, a novelist, called it "l'amore di Dio" (love of God). I wanted to ask her who was doing the loving, God or herself or both, but I didn't because she is an atheist. I think hers was a reference to Dante's explanation of what moves the cosmos.

Anne Campbell's Dollhouse Hobby

Anne Campbell took up her first "real hobby" at age 72. She had always wanted an antique Hoosier cabinet and an old fashioned wooden ice box but didn't have room for them in her house. One day, she wandered



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Top of the Signpost

Our short and sweet summer is in full swing as we plan this first issue of the fall. We hope it brings relaxation and the gift of time to everyone—to follow their passions and to do nothing at all if that suits the moment. We *Signpost* volunteers have enjoyed reading about the creative activities of our neighbors and the youngsters in our town and hope you will too.

Energy Committee Embarks on New Work: An Energy Plan for EM

Last December, after listening to a talk at VECAN (Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network) about the recently passed Act 174, some of us thought we would look into re-convening the East Montpelier Energy Committee. The main purpose was to address Act 174, which offers towns “substantial deference” in reviews of proposed renewable energy development in their municipalities. What does this mean you might wonder. You’re not the only one; no one is exactly sure how this is going to work.

The goal is to work within state guidelines to move toward the 2050 goal of 90% renewable energy, but to do so in a way that allows communities to shape how that happens. It’s this last part that we’re especially interested in. The gist is that if we create an approved energy plan, in concert with the town and regional planning commissions, then we will have a voice in how renewable energy development happens in our community. Up until now, the community has not had much of a role in these decisions.

Every community is expected to move toward carbon dioxide reduction and renewable energy generation. We think it will be to our advantage to plan that transition for ourselves rather than having it imposed on us. There are four components to the state’s guidelines: conservation and efficient use of energy, reducing transportation energy demand and encouraging alternative transportation, land use, and siting of renewable energy developments. We know that careless siting of renewable energy development has the potential to dramatically change the character of East Montpelier.

Working closely with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission’s Eric Vorwald, we have written a first draft of an energy plan for the town. An energy plan will be incorporated into the 2018 Town and Regional Plan. We would like to hear from town residents with ideas about how to reach out with information about programs for efficiency incentives and loans, how to reduce the transportation burden, and especially about good and bad sites for large scale solar installations. We must be very specific about non-preferred sites for energy development, and we’d like your help with that.

Committee members are: Lindy Biggs, Rob Chickering, Carl Etnier, Tom Fisher, Dave Grundy, Steve Knowlton, Cort Richardson. Jean Vissering and Scott Hess are liaisons for the Planning Commission.

Please contact any of us with questions or for more information. And, if you’d like to be part of the process we’d love to have more members.

Please join the Planning Commission

for a presentation on the finalized East Montpelier Village Master Plan. Thursday, October 5, 2017, 7:00-7:30 p.m. at the Emergency Services Facility (Fire Department) 54 Village Acres. Refreshments will be served.

Creating Peter and Wendy at EMES

Every Wednesday afternoon from February to June last year, the East Montpelier Elementary School gym was filled with 35 laughing, squealing, energetic fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders and one grinning adult—me. I was there to direct the musical *Peter Pan and Wendy*, and the kids were learning how to play while making a play. Incorporating the arts in education isn't just about appreciating great art but about developing creativity, and kids are great at that.

Peter Pan and Wendy was the first show staged in several years, and it took lots of help from the school and a half-dozen parent volunteers to produce. Calling it a success isn't really a boast, because the main measure is how far the kids travelled from their first experience of improvisational scenes to running an entire hour-long show. I worked hard to stage the play, but I have to admit that we probably won over all the parents simply by getting their children up on stage in costumes.

Still, there's no question that the show impressed the audience and delighted the kids. The students learned the basics of stage combat and performed battles and sword fights. Starting with silly theater games, the kids progressed to the give-and-take of scenes. I watched their comic timing improve, their dance moves grow polished, and their singing progress to satisfying harmonies. Stage crew members learned how to scrounge or make props and costumes and the basics of running a lighting board.

We were focused on what was needed for a specific scene or a particular song, so on the surface, all we were doing was making a play come to life. But in fact, the kids were learning more than theater and music. They got to practice crucial skills that I hope will stay with them all through their lives.

A play is the result of collaboration, and everything we put on stage was the result of solving problems as a group. Many of our acting exercises were designed to focus concentration and communication, including wordless or improv-based communication. Students had to trust each other and work as a team, whether they were hustling through the set change to create a pirate ship or dancing as the Lost Boys.

If it sounds like I was teaching the kids, much of the time they were teaching me. I've been directing for years and it's a given that the director is in charge. I had to forget everything I knew when it became clear the kids wanted to direct themselves—they immediately volunteered their



own ideas for every scene. If some of these were impractical, all of them showed powerful interest in the story we were trying to tell and the skills we could assemble to present it. To me, this was a wonderful indication they were involved, though I confess I sometimes wanted to

tell them that no other director would let them get away with this. It was especially fun for me to incorporate dozens of their spontaneously generated ideas.

Rehearsal itself teaches a crucial principle about accomplishing something. It's all about things going wrong. I got the kids to agree to not to blame someone else for a goof and just move on to fix the glitch together. We had one terrible dress rehearsal when the show was a shambles. The idea we'd do this for an audience seemed absurd. Don't ask me to explain the magic of theater, but somehow the play came together. The students saw the miraculous transformation that can only result from a group rising to the occasion.

To perform in public can be a little scary, but all the student actors got to feel the best kind of nervousness when they went out on stage. Since public speaking is a major anxiety for many people, these kids already have a strong foundation. And the ability to speak up in school, at work, and in the community takes courage that all these young actors have proved they have.

I won't claim that the process turned the kids into refined actors, but the performers got to experience a crucial kind of imagination when they became characters in a play. The freedom to be someone else through costume, song, dance, and speech is plenty of fun, but it also requires creative thinking. What does my character know and want? What's it like to fly or be a pirate? And how does it feel to invent someone different out of what you know about yourself?

I came away with two important discoveries. First, I recommend volunteering at the school, even if you don't have kids enrolled. Second, artistic endeavor isn't an optional indulgence in the curriculum. These students got to put into practice the skills of collaboration, problem-solving, imagination, public speaking, and creative play. I'm grateful to the volunteer parents and the EMES staff for giving me a chance to see what a difference theater can make in kids' lives.

—Alex Brown is a theater director, novelist, and the theater reviewer for *Seven Days*. She lives on Johnson Road with her husband, the actor Clarke Jordan.

into a dollhouse miniatures shop and discovered one-inch scale models of both items, complete with real working parts. She bought them, but then realized she needed a dollhouse to put them in. She was hooked! She has completed and furnished six different dollhouses and is working to restore one that was found at a yard sale.



Tom Cate, Composer

Creativity for me frequently comes when I am passionate about something; I express that passion through musical composition. Intense feelings about what is happening to our planet led to intense creativity, resulting in *Tears, Salt Spray*—written in response to our degradation of the

oceans, and *Seven Parables On The Sixth Extinction*—written in response to our degradation of the entire planet and the resultant loss of species. For me, the lyrics always come before the music. The creative act is what makes us human. If you are interested, I will send you the lyrics to *Tears, Salt Spray*. tcate@ezcloud.com

Jo Chickering, Renaissance Woman



For many years Jo Chickering used her creative talents as a partner, parent, painter, potter, and Ph.D. On February 21, 1999 a stroke eliminated potting—as well as hiking, skiing and tennis. Then, during the 2000s, failing vision shut down painting. She'd always composed poems and haiku for birthday and

holiday greetings. So, to the delight of friends, relatives and others, poetry became her creative outlet. In 2011, *Saying Yes to Life*, with accompanying photos and endorsed by Parker Palmer, hit the streets. In 2015, *Relationships that Matter*, with a CD read by actor friends, shares her wisdom and compassion. Copies? 223-0762 or jodawnc@gmail.com. Submitted with total objectivity by Art Chickering, primary beneficiary for 65 years.



Robin Copping, In Focus

I love cruising the beautiful back roads of our town. I enjoy amateur photography mainly focusing on wildlife and scenery. I am rarely disappointed, as I have filmed bears, deer, bobcat, fox, rabbit, and the list goes on. There is

something magical about viewing wildlife at dusk! It fills my heart with joy and my soul with peace and wonder. If I am looking for a moment of solitude and a feeling that leaves me inspired, I simply grab my camera and follow "The Back Road."



Nancy Disenhaus, Literary Midwife

Creativity, both mine and my students', kept me going through decades of teaching writing. Leading students through the writing roles of "madman, architect, carpenter, judge" allowed me to be deeply engaged with my students' successive drafts. I could imagine and think my way into where each student seemed to

want to go with his or her own paper— at times an acrobatic process. In return, I got to watch their creations develop, like a photograph, through successive stages. I was a "writing midwife," helping students give birth to satisfying personal expression in their finished pieces.

Diana Fielder, Collaborative Creativity



Old Meeting House members created a quilt to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the church's reopening. Cherie Staples drew up the group's ideas. Grace and Adeline Cannella drew the bell tower. Mary Redmond cross-stitched our title. The focal point is The Old Meeting House, created, embroidered, and

applied by Diana Fielder, its lighted windows welcoming all. A maple tree stands nearby, roots embedded in log cabin blocks in shades of green. Stitched by many OMH members, the blocks represent the foundation created by our forefathers on God's green earth. A songbird symbolizes the importance of our music; a star depicts our theme, "Following the Star"; flying geese represent those who have "flown away." The finished quilt hangs in the sanctuary of The Old Meeting House.



Norman Hill, From the Heart

In 2005, I retired from a busy job in Washington, DC, moved to Vermont, and became one of a family of five. I helped with the cooking and became fascinated with baking bread, especially the sourdough process. After months of experimentation (and more than a few doorstep loaves), I

attended a class at King Arthur Flour, made my own starter, and honed the skills to make bread that most people love. Now I bake for family and friends and for the Parish House Cafe at the Old Meeting House; and when I do, it feels as if my heart is working through my hands.



Barbara Leber, Art for All

I was born in Rockford, Illinois. I came to Vermont to attend college and never left. After college I joined the Bread and Puppet Theater and to this day am still involved. It was during this time that I began to paint. I used small board and

acrylic paint. I was traveling a lot, and therefore the paintings were small and transportable. Using the slogan "Cheap Art," I started selling paintings with the idea that art should be available and affordable for everyone. In 2013, my husband Ken Feld and I moved to East Montpelier. Today I am painting more than ever and selling at local farmer's markets and fairs.

David Lewis, Always Planting



I have always been interested in plants. When I was four, I had my first vegetable garden (small). In college, I studied the plant sciences and finished with a Ph.D. in plant pathology from Cornell. I taught

about plant diseases at Rutgers for 40 years. At home, I started planting rhododendrons and azaleas and eventually wound up with over 1200 hybrids and species. During those years, I created a number of my own hybrids, some of which are sold by specialty nurseries. We moved to Vermont in 2000, and I continue to plant rhododendrons and enjoy my hobby.

Gary Ann Lewis, Photographer of Light



I started taking pictures over 40 years ago and have been at it ever since. I think the most important thing I ever learned was from a photography judge who said that photography is about photographing light. Most

anything will look special if you capture it in the right light. I mostly do birds, wildflowers, and insects but have expanded a little into doing people, which is fun and rewarding. I also use a tripod, cable release, and flash when I do still pictures. The camera viewfinder enables me to disappear into another world, and then I sometimes feel like Alice in Wonderland.

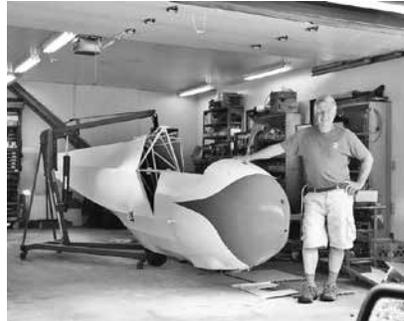
Ken Matzner's Rocketry Hobby



Ken Matzner was 13 years old in 1957 when the Russians sent Sputnik into orbit. He suddenly got the rocket virus and has been suffering from it ever since. At first, he built rockets with parts from the hardware store and chemicals from the drug store. Most of them never got off the ground. A few years later, model rocket kits and pre-loaded rocket motors became available.

The rockets actually started to fly! Now, 60 years later, he still designs, builds, and flies rockets as small as nine inches and as tall as six feet. He especially enjoys mentoring the Rocket Science Club at U-32 and is happy to teach rocketry to anyone who may be interested.

Stephen Miracle, Mechanic Unlimited



Remember *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*? In that vein, Stephen Miracle's creativity (art) manifests by taking on interesting and challenging projects on special machines. Neighbor Ken Feld, fascinated, observed him working on and

fixing a 1956 Isetta, a squat vehicle with two bicycle-like wheels on back. He recently resurrected a 1950 Studebaker and completely restored a Schweitzer 2-33 glider plane now flying tourists over Warren. As a licensed airplane mechanic, Stephen is qualified/able to take on most projects that require thinking and working "outside the box." He also helps neighbors problem-solve and fix solar electric and hot water systems.

Jeri Mullins, Map Art



I live with my husband, Joe, on Haggett Road and have been retired for 4 years after a nearly 38-year career with the State of Vermont. I happened upon some map art on Etsy when looking for a one-of-a-kind wedding gift and decided I could try my hand at creating this personalized art form. To that end, I have designed

personalized map art for loved ones and friends. My designs take into consideration the hometowns of the couple, where they married, and many other personal details. Each design is unique, including the color of mat and frame. I am planning to expand the art form to include baby births.

Karin Omasta, Working with Color



I've tried many crafts, but there are two I've stuck with—stained glass and painting. When I came to East Montpelier. I wanted a new hobby. My co-worker at the Gary Home had a son who worked in stained glass, and he gave me lessons. When he moved away, I went to Northfield for lessons. We still meet on an informal basis. I have made lamps, decorations, and windows. I recently made a stained glass

picture of the Washington Monument and cherry blossoms for my son who lives in D.C. My husband Steve, with the help of Bill Royce, makes the frames.

Creative, continued on page 6



Barbara Ploof, Rug Hooker

When I first retired, I decided to learn rug-hooking. We had a couple of hooked rugs in my childhood home and probably that is where my interest began. The Montpelier Senior Center

offers an ongoing rug hooking class, and on the County Road in EM is Green Mountain Hooked Rugs where one can buy the necessary supplies. So everything I needed was right here. I like designing rugs, as well as choosing the colors for rug patterns made by others. It is a relaxing way to spend time either at home or in groups with other rug hookers.

Mary Redmond, Stitches Galore



My most cherished childhood memory is sitting in the farmhouse with my mother who taught me to knit, sew, and embroider. Sewing led to quilting, embroidery led to crewel work and counted cross-stitch, and knitting made endless faculty meetings tolerable. The x-stitch autumn scene (pictured

here) took years to finish, and I made 13 fisherman knit sweaters for my Latin III and IV students as a reward for continuing their Latin studies to the highest level. Watching them proudly wearing the "Redmond sweater" through the halls of Montpelier High School gave me such pleasure.

Dick Riley, Music Man



Susan and I moved into the schoolhouse next to the Old Meeting House in August of 2012. We could never have known how quickly we would feel welcomed! After dividing my time in the previous 40 years between teaching, running some music organizations, and conducting, I decided to focus exclusively on conducting when we moved to East Montpelier. I direct music at the Unitarian Church of

Montpelier, am the artistic director of the Burlington Choral Society, and guest-conduct groups like the Onion River Chorus and Montpelier Chamber Orchestra. Lucky me!

Susan Bull Riley, Painting Nature

Dick and I met at the New England Conservatory, where I was studying flute. Although trained as a musician, I have been pursuing art full-time for the past couple of decades,



painting and exhibiting oils and watercolors that represent three facets of my work: a love of botanical

watercolor, a bottomless affection for birds, and the release, via art, of my feelings for the landscapes around our home.

Cherie Staples, Multi-artist



Since my first Brownie box camera when I was 12 and admired a lone elm tree in a cow pasture, I have been drawn to capturing images of nature: the colors of clouds, the hearts of flowers, the play of water, the sheen of waves breaking over sand, and the reach of mountains. I finally switched from film to digital in 2012, but

I use it on manual mode, after finding that the camera's automatic eye and mine were frequently far apart. In 2014 I re-opened my well-traveled paint-box filled with 40-year-old oil paints, found most of them usable, and am enjoying the results. Poetry began erupting in 1988 with a flood for several years and then trickles. Here's one from a decade ago:

The Bittering of August

Half moon
hangs to the south
on this August evening.
Quiet
crickets
hum.
I watched swallows fly across the road
this afternoon,
poignant reminders that swallows
will fly to Patagonia next week.
Three dusks ago
hermit thrush sang in the woods.
He too will fly south soon.
The bittering of August rises.
A summer's season of birds grown.
There is such a long wait for
the freshening next year.

Selectboard Update



Guthrie and Amber Perry and daughters

Finally, news on the road foreman front: After some thirty years of service to the town, including over twenty as road foreman plus a stint as the chief of the East Montpelier Volunteer Fire Department, Mike Garand has moved forward into well-deserved retirement. We're hoping to hold a celebratory event in Mike's honor later this year, possibly in December—details to follow.

Our new road foreman is Guthrie Perry, a very capable fellow out of Cabot who brings with him a wealth of mechanical and highway maintenance experience. Guthrie, wife Amber, and their two daughters will be moving to the East Montpelier area in the near future. We feel extremely fortunate to have found someone of Guthrie's caliber to take the reins from Mike.

At the 2017 Town Meeting, East Montpelier voters overwhelmingly supported amendments to the East Montpelier Charter. The amendments were then approved by the VT Legislature and signed into law by Governor Scott. The EM Charter can be found at 24 Appendix V.S.A. Chapter 114E.

As of July 1, 2017, the positions of Collector of Delinquent Taxes and Town Clerk became appointed positions subject

to the policies and procedures developed by the East Montpelier Selectboard. In considering the CDT, the board decided to assign the duties to the Town Administrator with the functions

handled by town office employees. The delinquent tax penalty will now accrue to the town's general fund rather than be paid to the Collector of Delinquent Taxes. Karen Gramer, our former elected Collector of Delinquent Taxes, has our gratitude for her conscientious and caring service to the town over the past decade.

The Selectboard is pleased to introduce Rosie Laquerre as our first appointed, under the amended charter, town clerk. Rosie is an East Montpelier resident, former EMES school board member and WCSU employee, as well as a long-time notary public. She will be onboard on September 5 and will be a great addition to our office staff!

We very much appreciate the graciousness of CJ Flynn, our former town clerk, who helped us through a difficult transition period.

Another charter-related change in governance is the dissolution of East Montpelier Fire District #1 through a merger back with the town. The district was created in 2010 with the express purpose of purchasing and operating the Crystal Springs Water System serving the East Montpelier Village area. After many years of fruitless negotiation, the district's prudential committee decided that there was no feasible way to accomplish its task. The town will now be responsible for any potential purchase of the system. Many thanks to Steve Gilman, Rubin Bennett, and Bob Morey for their diligent effort over the past seven years.



Rosie Laquerre

Historical Societies to Offer Potluck and Free Lecture Series

The EM and Calais Historical Societies invite you to attend three fall lectures at 7 p.m. preceded by a 6:00 p.m. potluck dinner at the Old Brick Church in E. Montpelier Village. On Monday, Sept. 18, Amanda Gustin will present a VT Humanities Council talk called "Vermont vs. Hollywood: 100 Years of VT in Film." She will share movie clips filmed around the state from 1919-2005.

On Monday, October 16, EMHS member Manny Garcia and historian/writer Paul Heller will speak about "Jacob Davis, Montpelier's First Settler." Davis was one of the first proprietors of

land in our area and worked hard to establish a small village which grew to include our town acreage along with that of Montpelier.

The last lecture will be on Monday, November 20, when John David Book, author and president of the Worcester Historical Society, will tell the tale, "A High Price to Pay, a Heavy Burden to Bear: One (Cabot) Family's Civil War Story."

All events are wheelchair accessible and open to the public. Please bring a dish to share and your own place setting. Coffee provided. For more information contact Sandal Cate, 223-6466, sandal@sover.net

Women Who Farmed East Montpelier

by Austin Cleaves

When I came to work on Uncle Lyle Young's farm in the 1950s, seven of the 45+ dairy farms in town were run by women. They were definitely "creators," making livelihoods for themselves and their families as well as food products for others.

Fran Delair and her husband operated the farm on Route 2 where Delair's Carpet Barn is located now.

The farm, which spanned both sides of the road, had been in Fran's family, the LaPoints, who owned several farms in town. Fran married Ray Delair, probably meeting him when he worked on the reconstruction of the bridge just beyond the farm. Despite Ray's having a serious construction accident followed by poor health, they operated a successful dairy farm of 30 to 40 cows. They also sold eggs and eventually established a meat market. I especially remember the butcher named Banjo, who was a lot of fun. Ray also bought and sold cattle. He was well-liked and very honest, about as nice a guy as you could find. Ray died rather young, leaving Fran to manage the farm. She employed several East Montpelier residents including Maurice Brown who now lives in the Village, and Paul St. John, father of Stanley. Eventually Bob Cohen became Fran's business partner, and they developed a commission sale—a weekly auction of cows and other animals. This was quite a social event, drawing people from surrounding towns. In addition to managing the farm, Fran Delair served as town legislator.

After her husband died, **Eva Foster** operated the dairy farm that she and her husband, Will, owned at the end of Foster Road. Her daughter, Wilma, worked right along with her. They had a really nice herd of about 20 Jerseys, and she also sold eggs. Theirs was a pretty isolated spot, so they were dependent on Dick Shorey of Plainfield, the talkative driver of the milk truck, for town news. I loved to go over there because she fried doughnuts every week, and her kitchen smelled so good. She had to hire out a lot of the field work. One year, Clem Rock told her he was running behind and couldn't get to her farm until late in the season. So I called Jeff Sibley, Peter Christiansen, Harold Weed, and Ernest Dodge, and we hayed whole farm.



Ruth Paine's farm



When Eva stopped farming, John Hall rented the land from her. Seth Gardner uses it now.

Earle and **Eva Towne** moved to their Center Road farm (where Lyn and Ed Blackwell now live) in 1933. The farm had been in Eva's family, and when Eva and Earle divorced, she hired several men and one woman to help

milk the 15-cow herd and help with the farm work. Eva also raised capons to sell for meat.

Alice Templeton Chapell, grandmother of Bruce Chapell, was born on Templeton Farm in 1893

and graduated from Goddard Seminary in Barre. She taught in the #10 schoolhouse, now a dwelling on Center Road across from Sibley Road. She married Harold Chapell in 1916, and they purchased Templeton Farm from Alice's parents for \$16,000, a lot of money then. In the 1940s she and Harold divorced (a rare occurrence at that time). From then until her death in 1979, she ran the 25-head dairy farm with the help of her hired man, Richard Eastman. She took care of the books, raised the calves, and made most of the decisions concerning the breeding and feeding of the cows. Bruce Chapell says, "Anyone who tried to cross her found out she had a sharp mind and an even sharper tongue." Bruce owns that farm, on the corner of Center Road and Templeton Road, and produces beef and maple syrup with his son Seth.

Ruth Paine and her husband Ralph owned the farm with the big yellow barn on Center Road where Erica Zimmerman and Kevin McCollister live today. After Ruth's husband died, she ran the dairy farm of 20 to 25 cows, plus laying hens, with the help of her able assistant Wallace "Red" Atherton. "Red" was quite a unique character in town with his unruly shock of red hair and infectious laugh. Ruth was important to the running of the Center Church and Sunday school, now called the Old Meeting House.

Isabel Hall and her husband Carl milked Ayrshires on the farm on Vincent Flats where Gene Troia and Ann Carter now live. When her husband was alive, they ran one of the first East Montpelier farms to have mechanized equipment such as a combine and a field chopper. Carl could be easily identified at a distance because he wore oversized overalls, a flowing frock coat, and very large sneakers. After Carl died, in the 1960s, Isabel continued to run the farm with the help of her hired man, Arthur Stewart, and his wife Ruth, who lived on the farm. Isabel had almost as many cats as



Ella McKnight's farm

She had a wood stove with a warming drawer in the bottom, where she let newborn kittens stay.

Ella McKnight's husband died quite young and left her with the farm on Snow Hill Road, which had been in his family for several generations. At first she didn't have regular help with her herd of 30 cows. Eventually she hired John Farmer, who had come down from Canada to visit relatives in East Montpelier. They became business partners, each owning half the farm. The farm grew to 90 milkers. A new barn was built in 1952 and several additions were put on after that. They had one of the more successful farms in East Montpelier. Later, John's brother Francis Farmer (who recently passed away) worked for them. Ella did a lot of



outside work and also played the piano for community social events. She was a super lady. I always liked her. She passed away when she was in her 90s. Seth Gardner owns the farm now.

When I first came to East Montpelier, it was the most intensively farmed town in Washington County. On most farms, women assisted their husbands in addition to all the work of raising a family, doing laundry, preparing meals, tending a garden, and canning or "putting food by," as they referred to it. I realized the women who also ran their own farms were sort of pioneers— ahead of their time. I think those women would be glad to know that they created a real legacy: most of their farmland in East Montpelier remains in some form of agricultural use today.

—Austin Cleaves was a farmer all his life until his retirement this year. He owned the farm that had belonged to Lyle Young and eventually consolidated it with John Hall's farm to create the Fairmont Farms. Austin told Barbara Ploof his recollections of these women who ran their farms. He was given a few details by Barbara and Maurice Brown, Bruce Chapell, and Anna Towne. Barbara Ploof wrote the article using Austin's words. Photographs are from the Historical Society's albums in the Town Office.



Mentors Benefit All Kids

A mentor is a companion, guide, teacher and healthy role model all wrapped up in one. Girls/Boyz First Mentoring matches adult volunteer mentors with young people in Central Vermont. We

serve youth in Montpelier, Middlesex, Worcester, Calais, Berlin and East Montpelier. We have both community- and school-based mentoring programs to choose from. Mentors are carefully screened, trained and supported in the mentoring relationship.

If you are an adult who wants to make a positive difference in the life of a child and have a minimum of two hours a week, please consider becoming a mentor. Training and on-going support are provided.

Currently, GBF Mentoring has a short waiting list for mentees.

If you live in Montpelier or the WCSU towns of Middlesex, Worcester, Calais, Berlin or East Montpelier and have a child, ages 8-10 who would like a mentor, please contact Wendy Freundlich at 224-6500 check out our web site girlsboyzfirst.org or look us up on Facebook.

What Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity Does for Fun



- House low income families with decent, energy-

efficient homes and affordable mortgages

- Attribute successes to community collaborations, volunteer labor, committee work and Partner Families!
- Build Stability, Strength, and Self Reliance through Shelter
- Involve the community with volunteer opportunities
- Tackle and solidify the affordable housing and energy efficiency relationship
- Acknowledge generous support from individuals, businesses, and organizations Train volunteers safety guidelines in building practices

Thank you to all the East Montpelier residents who helped build the Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity Passive House! Please contact Debbie Goodwin to volunteer with CVVHFH! cvhfh.execdir@outlook.com 802-522-8611

Town Offices

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651

Phone: 802-223-3313

Office Hours: Mon–Thurs 9 AM–5 PM

Town Clerk: Rosie Laquerre
eastmonttct@comcast.net

Town Treasurer: Don Welch
eastmonttr@comcast.net

Town/Zoning Administrator:
Bruce Johnson, eastmontadmin@comcast.net
Hours: Mon–Fri 9 AM–5 PM

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,
Ross Hazel, Chris Racanelli
223-3313 x206,
eastmontlstr@comcast.net

Health Officer: Dave Grundy 476-4300

Service Officer: Rachael Grossman 223-3177

Selectboard

Seth Gardner, Chair
sethbgardner@hotmail.com

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Carl Etnier | Gene Troia |
| Kimberly Swazey | Amy Willis |

Planning Commission

Jean Vissering, Chair, 223-3262

Development Review Board

Richard Curtis, Chair
rcurtis841@comcast.net

U-32 Jr./Sr. High School

Kari Bradley, kbradley@u32.org
Karen Bradley, kabradley@u32.org

Elementary School

Rubin Bennett, Chair
rubin@rbtechvt.com

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Darci Coleman-Graves | Lindy Johnson |
| Flor Diaz-Smith | Stephen Looke |

State Representative

Kimberly Jessup, 249-9306
jessupkimberly@gmail.com

Town Weathervane

Milestones

Due to space limitations, the excerpted summaries of the minutes of public meetings may be found on the Signpost website at www.emsignpost.com.

DEATHS

- Barbara Starr died in July, 2017, mother of Loring Starr and sister of Joyce Rhodes
- Ester Hoffman died in July, 2017, mother of Richard Hoffman

MARRIAGES

- Dorothy Cool & Michael Campi, June, 2017

LAND TRANSFERS

- Stephen & Louise Rauh to Stephen Rauh Trust No.1, residence & 33.1 acres, Murray Rd
- Cory & Kathryn Richardson to Micah & Dana Howe, residence & 4.61 acres, Bragg Hill Rd
- Joseph & Lucy Ferrada to Big Sky LLC, residence & 21.6 acres, County Rd
- Duane Wells to Ryan & Tara Bugbee, 3 acre building lot, Captain Kidd Rd

- Andrew & Morgan Greenwald to David Hershey & Alison Byrnes, residence & 1.5 acres, Powder Horn Glen Rd
- Donald & Janet Coffey to Jonathan & Rebecca Kelley, residence & 4.97 acres, L Brown Dr
- Duane Wells to Glen Kirkpatrick, 9.05 acre subdivision, Banfield Rd
- Mark & Tina Little to Joseph Carriveau, mobile home, County Rd
- Jean Lacroix to Meghan Pew, residence & 10.7 acres, Cherry Tree Hill Rd
- Elinor Yahm to Elinor Yahm Family Trust & Rebecca Yahm, Co-trustee, residence & 8.2 acres, Bliss Rd
- Charles & Lauren Andrews to Anna & Jeremy Hankins, residence & 3.65 acres, Barnes Rd
- Leonard U. Wilson Revocable Trust to David Soccodato, residence & 3 acres, Murray Rd



East Montpelier Eats is our periodic local farm-to-table feature highlighting our neighbors who raise or fabricate food on a small scale—for home use or sale. If this describes you, tell us your tips and successes by contacting Rachael Grossman at garlicmountain@gmail.com.

We all lead busy lives, but Carol Dickson and Bruce Howlett may win the prize. Both have full-time jobs—Carol is the Academic Dean at Sterling College in Craftsbury and Bruce works for USDA-NRCS. They also own Bobolink Farm on Towne Hill Road (the former Hawkins farm), where 82 acres of pastures and woodlands support 40 ewes and 60 lambs. They sell live lambs and meat and also make maple syrup and hay.

After working all day, Bruce and Carol come home to evening chores. Each day, using movable, solar-powered fences, they create a new paddock for the sheep. They haul buckets or dip into

a stream to bring water. Then, there are the never-ending tasks to restore the farm—managing pastures, cutting hay, digging burdocks and thistles, clearing invasive shrubs, and cleaning up and rebuilding the farmstead.

Carol and Bruce began keeping sheep about eight years ago. If you are thinking about raising sheep, you only need a little open land. You'll also need to supply winter shelter for the livestock and for feed and manure. Bobolink Farm has a variety of lamb cuts available: leg and shoulder roasts, rib and loin chops, and others. Call or email, or stop by in the evening. Some cuts are available at Buffalo Mountain Coop in Hardwick.

Here's how Carol and Bruce cook their lamb: Rub with chopped garlic, rosemary, and a little salt, and slow-roast the larger cuts (legs, shoulders, rib and loin roasts) in a covered roasting pan until done. They grill the chops. Grass-fed lamb has a great mild flavor and plenty of fat, but it can get tough if you allow it to dry out during cooking.

You can contact Carol and Bruce at: 223-1751. You can also follow updates on our Bobolink Farm Facebook page.

—Rachael Grossman is the EME coordinator

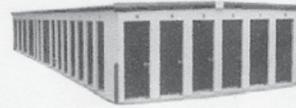


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CALENDAR & IMPORTANT DATES

Mon. Sept. 18, 7 p.m. EM & Calais Hist. Soc. present Amanda Gustin on Hollywood in Vermont, Old Brick Church in EM Village, potluck at 6 p.m. (see page 7)

Thurs. Oct. 5, 7 p.m. Planning Comm. presents new EM Village Master Plan at EMFD

Mon. Oct 16, 7 p.m. EM & Calais Hist. Soc. present Manny Garcia & Paul Heller on Jacob Davis, Montpelier's First Settler, Old Brick Church, potluck at 6 p.m. (see page 7)

Mon. Nov. 20, 7 p.m. EM & Calais Hist. Soc. present John David Book on his book One (Cabot) Family's Civil War Story, Old Brick Church, potluck at 6 p.m. (see page 7)



CHANDLER CLEMONS

E. Montpelier's Boo takes a long leap off a short pier.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee
Development Review Board (DRB)

East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) Board

East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)

East Montpelier Fire District No. 1

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.

2nd Wed. 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: blusig@aol.com /229-5441

Town Office Building

Elementary School

EMFD Community Room

EMFD Community Room

Four Corners Schoolhouse/E. Calais

contact: rhazel@ezcloud.com

Four Corners Schoolhouse

Elementary School, Art Room

Town Office Building

Elementary School

Town Office Building

U-32 School