

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXVIII—Number Three

January/February 2018

A Family on the Move

by Sue Clayton

The old adage “The family that plays together stays together” could be the motto of the Zeilenga family: Jack, Jillian, Caelan, and Elliot. Jack grew up in Calais and graduated from U-32. He enjoys biking, running, and playing basketball. He coaches 3/4



and 5/6 grade boys’ basketball and is a member of the East Montpelier Recreation Board. He is also an avid organic gardener with two big gardens and a small greenhouse in the back yard, along with various berry bushes and a few young fruit trees. Jack loves being outside—whether cross-country skiing or running in half-marathons twice a year. In his spare time, he works with David Schutz as the assistant state curator of the State House and other state buildings.

What does a curator do? The curator is responsible for the care, interpretation, and exhibition of all the collections at the State House, state buildings, and two art galleries—one at the Supreme Court building and the other in the Governor’s office. Those galleries mount new exhibits four times a year. Jack also helped with research for the book about the State House, *Intimate Grandeur*, which was published in the fall of 2015.

Jillian, too, bikes, runs, maintains the family’s beautiful flower gardens, and coaches the 5/6 girls’ basketball team; just one team

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JIM EATON

Jim Eaton Productions: A Vermont Original

by Art Chickering

When life presents itself with all its beauty and challenges, Jim Eaton shouts YES! Follow your passions is his mantra. He is a 67-year-old sixth-generation Vermonter who grew up in South Royalton and went to South Royalton Elementary School in the building now occupied by the Vermont Law School. As Montpelier Seminary students, his great grandfather and great uncle carried the pipes that later became the Vermont College chapel organ.

He and his wife of 40 years, Maggie, have lived in East Montpelier for 39 years. Maggie retired after 40 plus years teaching language arts, the last 15 at U-32 Middle School. She continues in her profession mentoring teachers around the state. Their two adult children, Brendan and Sarah, both teach art—he at Spaulding and she in the Studio School at Oregon College of Art and Craft. Not surprisingly,

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Top of the Signpost

The New Year is here, and once again, it's time to think about Vermont's unique institution of Town Meeting, coming right up on Tuesday, March 6. In addition to anticipating the opportunity to see old friends, meet new ones, and enjoy eating and socializing together, now is the moment to consider getting even more involved in operations of our small town. Petitions to run for public office are due no later than Monday, January 29; and even the collection of the 25-30 signatures needed to put your name on the ballot provides great opportunities to visit with your neighbors. Local government is one forum where you can definitely have an impact. Try it, you'll like it. This year you have your choice of the following positions:

- Town Moderator**, 1-year term
- Selectboard Members**, one 3-year and one 2-year term
- Lister**, 3-year term
- Auditors**, one 3-year term and one 2 of 3-year term
- First Constable**, 1-year term
- Second Constable**, 1-year term
- Cemetery Commissioner**, 5-year term
- Planning Commissioners**, three 3-year terms
- School Moderator**, 1-year term
- EMES School Directors**, one 2-year and one 3-year term



Join Us at Town Meeting Potluck Lunch

Town meeting would not be nearly as much fun and certainly far less social were it not for the long-time tradition of the noonday potluck lunch.

As always, we can guarantee you the very best of home cooking. We anticipate around 120 people, so bring a dish that will feed 8-12 guests. The choice is yours—appetizer, salad, main course, sides, bread/rolls, or dessert. Details about food contributions will be outlined in the next issue of the *Signpost*. In the meantime, think about how you will satisfy your neighbors' appetites after a morning of local self-governance.

If you would like to volunteer with the potluck crew and help with set-up, serving, clean-up, cooking with the kitchen crew, or running the meal service, give Sue Racanelli a call at 225-6032 or email her at racanellis@gmx.com.

News from U-32

Transition Academy Participants Profit from Craft Fair Experience



Arthur Neddo and Brooke Merrill fill mason jars with cookie mix ingredients.

The U-32 Transition Academy is a program designed to assist young adults ages 18-22 with the transition from school to adult life. The program currently has four participants, two of whom reside in East Montpelier.

This fall, the budding entrepreneurs brainstormed a list of projects, shopped, tracked their expenses, and created craft products as a

way to earn money for their program. They made and baked a variety of items from pine cone bird treats, candles and plants in teacups, to Dalmatian bark, flavored breads, and fudge. Completing this project from start to finish was a challenging and time-consuming endeavor, but proved extremely



Shelby Lavigne & Nick Zecchinelli sell their homemade items at craft fair.

worthwhile. On Sunday, November 5, students sold their items at the Canadian Club Craft Fair. The results of their hard work and dedication will enable the Transition Academy to purchase items for future projects. It was a meaningful and profitable experience.

—Nanci Randall is a paraprofessional who has worked in various roles in U-32's special education department for nearly 30 years.

Animals and their Humans

Central Vermont Humane Society serves the animals and the people of East Montpelier, as well as the rest of Vermont and even beyond. Much has changed over the years in the world of animal welfare and animal sheltering, and CVHS has changed also, while continuing to be a safety net for people and their pets in times of need. The shelter cares for over 1,000 animals each year, going the extra mile to provide special medical care, behavioral help, and whatever time is needed to assist them on their journey to new, loving homes. CVHS also offers a variety of positive-reinforcement dog training classes for the public, building strong, healthy relationships between dogs and their humans. This is a critical piece in helping to keep animals in their homes.

This is accomplished with the help of many EM folks: animal control officer Sandy Conti, Vermont Vet Tech President Deb Glottmann, and numerous volunteers (including Tim Frazier and his sons), foster families, adopters, and countless donors. CVHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization funded completely by donations and fees for services. If you are interested in volunteering, donating, or learning more about CVHS, stop by the shelter and visit the website, www.centralvermonthumane.org.

—Erika Holm grew up in Berlin, has lived in Middlesex for 30 years, is the Animal Control Officer for both Middlesex and Worcester, and is thrilled to be the Director of Operations at CVHS.



Holding an adorable, adoptable kitten at the Humane Society.

East Montpelier Eats

wife, Megan, along with their daughters, Adeline, Grace, and Margo, plant, harvest, and consume their products. They started farming in Central Vermont in 2013 after moving to East Montpelier. Mark's passion for farming comes from the influence of his grandfather, Willis Valentine Miller. Starting in the early 1930s, until his passing in 2004, Grandpa Miller was an enthusiastic gardener. He also loved painting weird things on barns, including dragons. In his memory, the Valentine Farm logo displays a dragon inside a heart.

Mark works for UVM as a Farm Business Specialist, and Megan teaches English at Norwich University. Mark tells us that people often confuse their dream of farming with a desire to manage a farm business. Farming, Mark says, is an

Not all potatoes are created equal. So say Mark and Megan Cannella of Valentine Farm in East Montpelier. Mark and his

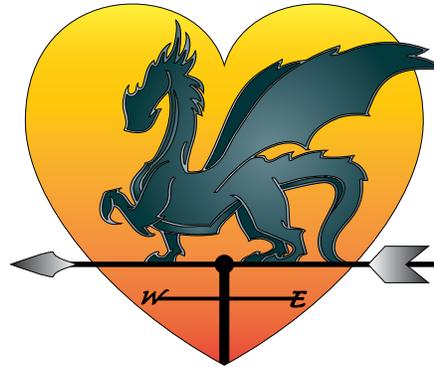
avocational activity, like gardening or skiing. Running a farm business is like running any business and requires record keeping, accounting, employing hired labor, etc. It is often capital intensive. However, the benefits of a farm business include creating jobs in a rural town, stewarding a parcel of land, being self-employed, and following your creative instincts.

While farming is his passion, Mark made a difficult decision this year to cut back to spend more time with his family. Ninety percent of this year's crop will be donated to the food shelf and food security organizations. You will find the other 10% for sale on Front Porch Forum in 2018.

For anyone thinking about starting up a farm business, Mark has this advice: be honest about what you want, and go for it. It's hard work. Don't get trapped by the "farming is noble" and "working harder will get you better results" ideas. Be realistic.

There are endless ways to cook potatoes. Here's a crunchy recipe: Find a good dry potato, like a russet or other similar variety. Coat with vegetable oil. Bake 425° until crisp. Lightly salt.

—Rachael Grossman is coordinator of EM Eats



VALENTINE FARM

Paulie's Recipes

Vegetable Chowder—*from Maude Templeton*

- 3 carrots
 - 4 potatoes
 - ¼ c. rice
 - 3 onions (medium size)
 - 2 cups canned tomatoes
 - 2 tablespoons shortening or 1 oz salt pork (or bacon)
 - 3 tablespoons salt
 - 2 c. milk
- Add milk last. Cook 20 minutes.

Salmon Sandwich Filling—*from Mrs. Walter Guyette, Community Cookbook of the Friendly Circle, North Montpelier*

Chop together finely:

- 1 c. salmon, flaked
- 2 hard boiled eggs
- 10 stuffed olives
- 1 small onion
- 1 small cucumber

Mix with equal parts of chili sauce and mayonnaise. Place between thinly sliced buttered bread. This will make 18 large sandwiches.

Paulie's comment: This makes a nice Sunday supper.

Thanks for Everything, Rhoda

Rhoda Chickering did what every good volunteer should do before making it known that she was leaving her work as a *Signpost* volunteer: she first announced her replacement. However, Rhoda leaves a particularly large gap in our organization because she is a repository of its history. Rhoda was enlisted by Jean Cate, the founder of the *Signpost*, to run the Rally Day Silent Auction when the Chickering's moved here in 2000. That was the start of a long and fruitful run, with Rhoda taking on various leadership roles and always passing along the whys and wherefores of "what Jean would have done."

Rhoda, you have been a mainstay and have kept us on track as the *Signpost* has grown over the years. The *Signpost* volunteers will miss you, and all readers of the *Signpost* are indebted to you.

Rosie Laquerre, East Montpelier's new town clerk, will take over the reporting of the town records from Rhoda.

**Thank you to *Signpost* contributors:
Anne & Conrad Ormsbee**

East Montpelier Trails Update

It turns out that crossing a brook can create a Winooski River's worth of challenges.

East Montpelier folks enjoy and appreciate our impressive system of multi-use trails. Since the early 1990s, EMTI (East Montpelier Trails, Inc.), has added new trails, created signage, and made necessary updates and repairs.

Most recently, the trails have needed substantial clearing and cleaning because of the late October windstorm that wreaked havoc on trees throughout Vermont. In the aftermath, some landowners are in the process of harvesting fallen trees; with the end of hunting season, EMTI's clean-up efforts will resume. A piece of very good news is that both the Ormsbee Trail and the Karen Clark Trail are complete, signage included.

Of particular interest now is the status of the Mallory Brook Trail and bridge replacement. The brook crossing presents a significant challenge, given its remote location and water volume ranging from a trickle to a torrent. According to Mary Stone, EMTI president, the state "prohibits the use of power tools and, generally, support structures in a streambed. EMTI was given verbal permission to use the pier permitted a decade ago, and we are currently applying for a new permit to continue to use it. Bridge replacement is complicated and sometimes slow going; EMTI must take into consideration conservation, recreation, safety, and the landowner's wishes."

The original bridge was constructed by a VYCC (Vermont Youth Conservation Corps) team working with Charles Johnson and Chris Pratt, the Mallory Brook Trail landowner. The hemlock logs were cut on the property and hauled into place by a horse and handler. Now that the trail has been reinforced with stone stairways through the steep gullies, it is less feasible for a horse to be utilized again.

EMTI's Rick Hopkins, the Mallory Brook project manager, says, "We are working collaboratively with Chris Pratt, the landowner and principal behind the bridge replacement effort. This involves downstream and upstream support beams, treads, and handrails.



In the meantime, trail users seeking to cross Mallory Brook are advised to use caution and good judgment when deciding if, where, and how to make a crossing."

Adds Pratt, "I've worked with EMTI from the beginning, laying out the location of the trail through my land and on the Mallory Brook crossing. They help me work out conflicts between hikers, hunters, and land management objectives. They also worked to get the grant that allowed Greg Western, a trail building artist, to do the trail work through Mallory Brook. I was extremely pleased with his work and the young people at VYCC he supervised. This time around we are using rot-resistant cedar cut on the land close to the bridge and hauled into place on a cable. I will make it so the water sheds off the logs better than before. I have a small crew who comes out to help on the weekends."

Stone concludes, "We're optimistic that the bridge will be ready for use before the end of 2018."

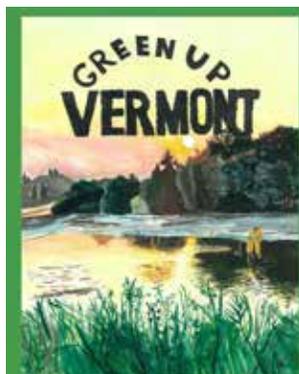
For further information, a newly updated trail map, or volunteer opportunities on our beautiful trails, visit EMTI's website: <http://emtrails.org>.

—Merry Schmidt, a retired teacher, is a freelance editor and watercolorist. She and her husband, Tom, hike the East Montpelier trails often.

Calling all Children and Teens: Green Up Day Poster, Essay & Poetry Contests

The annual statewide Green Up Poster and Writing Contests are open to all students, grades K-12.. The selected poster and poem or essay will be featured in every town and city in Vermont. Winners of each contest will win \$250 and be recognized at a press conference at the State House with television and radio coverage. All students may submit one entry to each contest.

The deadline for the poster contest is January 31, 2018. The winning poster will be



printed in full color and distributed statewide to promote Green Up Day.

The writing contest requires submission by March 1, 2018.

Details on submission requirements for both contests may be found on the Green Up website at http://www.greenupvermont.org/?page_id=1920.

If you have any questions, please call Melanie at 802-229-4586 or 1-800-974-3259.

—Chris Racanelli is EM Green Up Coordinator

Inside EMES

East Montpelier Elementary School continues to be central to our community as a place where many of our families spend their days, where we vote and hold meetings, and where we collectively invest in the future. EMES welcomes community involvement and, through its website emontpelierschool.org and the Signpost, wants to let the community know what's happening in their building. The following are a few of the programs that educators are working on.

A Brook Trout's Journey: From EMES Classroom to the Winooski

Being an avid fly fisherman targeting trout in Central Vermont and also loving to teach students new things about the world around them, I wanted to find a way to combine the two. I have been aware of a program called Trout in the Classroom (TIC) sponsored by the national organization Trout Unlimited (TU) for several years now. Through TIC students can raise brook trout from egg to fingerling. I always thought this would be a great program to introduce to East Montpelier Elementary School; however, the equipment is pricey.

A few years ago, I put out feelers to the local TU chapter asking if there were any local schools involved in the TIC program and what our school needed to do to be involved. We were met with another price tag that was out of reach, so I put the idea behind us. Many months passed and I received an email from a TIC liaison asking if the school was still interested in the program. After checking with the principal, I responded "yes" and wondered if the cost was still the same. I was pleasantly surprised to hear that TU was going to donate all of the equipment to the school which amounted to nearly \$1000! This included a 55-gallon fish tank, a chiller to keep the water at a consistent 55 degrees, a large filter, an aerator to keep the water oxygenated, and a pump to simulate a stream current.

Fourth grade teacher Robin Gannon and I decided to participate together and attended a training in November 2016. We quickly learned that this program covered many of the fourth grade science standards. In addition, TIC offered students the opportunity to care for the fish, which fosters a conservation ethic in the students. The highlight is at the end of the program when the students travel to the stream bank to release the fingerlings into their new habitat. This, too, creates a concrete connection between caring for the fish and caring for the environment.

Throughout the program, the fourth grade students were fully immersed in the biology and chemistry relevant to a brook trout, and in the brook trout's relationship to the larger natural



ROBIN GANNON

world, including humans. TIC also taught the students about how to care for the brook trout, observing how they grow, understanding the life cycle, as well as exploring and understanding water chemistry, the nitrogen cycle, natural resource management, the importance of riparian vegetation along waterways, and watershed geology and ecology.

After the eggs arrived, students read, researched, wrote, and connected the trout theme in reading, writing, science, and social studies. Students researched and wrote reports on fish that live in Vermont. Other teachers in the school were involved in the project as well. An obstacle course was set up in the gym, and students became salmon as they migrated home to spawn. They had to avoid fishermen, bears, trees, turbines, waterfalls, rocks, and shallow water. In art class, students created 3-D models of the fish they were studying. They learned about the structure and function of fish anatomy. They also highlighted the river route our trout would take from East Montpelier to Lake Champlain.

The final piece of TIC is Release Day. Mrs. Gannon and her fourth-graders, Mr. Blanchard (P.E. teacher), and I traveled to a local tributary of the Winooski River with approximately 180 brook trout fingerlings in tow. The day was set up with several activities: nature journaling, testing water chemistry (temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and pH), and searching for macroinvertebrates. Last, but not least, we released the trout we had raised. It is a great way to bring all of the learning together and celebrate the students' accomplishments and hard work.

This January, the current fourth graders will receive 100 brook trout eggs to raise, so EMES can keep the exciting experience going. Many thanks to Derek Pryce for allowing us to use his property on release day and donating his time to lend a helping hand, and to Trout Unlimited for the grant.

—Ted Nathanson is a special educator at EMES. Fourth grade teacher, Robin Gannon, helped in the preparation of this article.

P.E. Lab

As a physical educator, my goal is to provide children with the tools to be lifelong movers. All too often, P.E. programs use curricula that are based on team sports. There are also opportunities in the community for them to explore and cultivate these interests such as AAU, town recreation leagues, or private clubs, and kids can quickly become labeled athletes or non-athletes. There are also families who can afford to send their child to a camp or to lessons with a professional coach, which just further stretches the achievement gap, creating a negative connotation regarding physical activity for some of our youth.

The inspiration for P.E. Lab came from many different places. As the co-chair for the town Recreation Department, I was brainstorming ideas to keep our older elementary school students busy after school instead of playing video games, watching TV, or getting into mischief. I had the idea of an elementary-level outing club, similar to those at many colleges and universities, where students sign up, pay a fee, and then go on different adventures. Then I thought, why not have this available to everyone? Why should children only get to experience these other ways to move by paying money, belonging to a club, owning special equipment, or having available transportation? Just so happens, I know a guy who teaches P.E. in a community where people care, where the natural setting is perfect for outdoor recreation, and in a school where teachers and administration always put the interest of the children first. When I proposed this idea to our principal, Alicia Lyford, there were no reservations, only questions about how to make this feasible and successful.

The parameters for P.E. Lab are very simple: first, we can be active locally. You don't need to drive to a big resort or sports center; if you're going to spend some money, support local businesses. Second, we can be active with minimal specialized equipment. Anyone can hike, most kids have a bike or access to one, and you probably know someone with a canoe, kayak, snowshoes, or fishing pole. Third, you can be active at any age. Most 70-year-old people I know don't still play on a competitive basketball team, and most toddlers I know can't hit a curveball, but they are very active. Finally, we can be active for free or at a low cost. We don't need to pay for a lift ticket, for a gym membership, or hire a coach. This program is run free of charge. The kids need only a permission slip, and we ask that parents help drive to eliminate the cost of a bus.

The places we go are public land or are opened up for our use such as the Millstone in Graniteville, the Peck Family Farm, and the Wrightsville Reservoir. Students will have the opportunity to rock climb, hike, snowshoe, shoot archery, mountain bike, canoe, play disc golf, fish, ice skate, and cross-country ski.



Mr. Blanchard with Mrs. Christy's and Mrs. Christiano's EMES 3rd grade class rock climbing in Barre.

I tell the kids my story, about how my professional baseball career didn't pan out the way I wished it had. But even though I'm not making millions of dollars on TV, I can still get outside and move. I enjoy being in nature with my family and friends, making new connections with people, and working through problems. I use movement as a catalyst to work through stress, to keep my body healthy, and to have something to look forward to.

Sport is a microcosm of life, but now we have language to demonstrate that: Transferable Skills. We talk about growth mindset, creating goals, and using optimism and grit to work through adversity. Talking about creative thinking and problem solving

is natural when a student is making a huge reach to get to the next foothold of the wall they're climbing, and they try different grips or steps to reach the spot. The next student watches the climber and tries a different approach to reach the same point.

By the same logic, it's obvious that we must have effective and expressive communication when the paddler in the back of the canoe uses language prompts to make the paddler in the front aware that they are turning into an eddy and need to perform a sweep stroke and pry.

My goal for this program is to keep all the kids safe, expose them to activities that they otherwise may have never done before, and, hopefully, spark their interest in something new. Ideally, this will be a community effort—people will come along and participate with us, give us old or unused equipment, and we will use local public land and waterways that the kids can revisit. I would love other organizations to do the same sort of thing and spread the same message. I also hope we can expand to full day and overnight backpacking trips or canoe camping in the future.

If you'd like to donate equipment, have a tip about a great local recreation spot, or want to participate, contact me at mblanchard@u32.org.

—Michael Blanchard is the physical education teacher at EMES

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Fire Permits: EMFD 225-6247

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Assistant Animal Control Officer:
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Listers: Rob Chickering,
Ross Hazel, Chris Racanelli
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Health Officer: Ginny Burley 272-4045

Service Officer: Rachael Grossman 223-3177

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Kimberly Swazey	Amy Willis

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Jean Vissering, Chair, 223-3262

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Richard Curtis, Chair
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Karen Bradley, kabradley@u32.org

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

State Representative

Kimberly Jessup, 249-9306
jessupkimberly@gmail.com

Town Weathervane

Milestones

BIRTHS

- Maxton William Gray Garrett, a son, born in July to Jennifer Thomas
- Breanna Alice Chapell and Sofia Reese Chapell, daughters, born in October to Natalie and Seth Chapell
- Theo James Connor, a son, born in October to Emilie and Christopher Connor
- Sawyer Matthew Grant, a son, born in October to Chelsea Emmons
- Rilyn Kay Morse, a daughter, born in October to Sarynna Wilhoit and Michael Morse
- Emerson Louise Renner, a daughter, born in October to James & Kristin Renner

MARRIAGES

- Margaret Bardossi to Mary Alderman, July 2017
- Suzannah Vissering Klein to Christopher Wilson, July 2017
- Katherine Amey to David Huber, Aug. 2017
- Jenna Brazier to Jonathan Laroche, Aug. 2017
- Nicole Demestinas to Omar Aguilar, Aug. 2017
- Sandra Graves to Lloyd Brown, Aug. 2017
- Stephanie Hazlett to Marcus Hass, Aug. 2017
- Sarah Hofman to Kenneth Liberto, Aug. 2017
- Morgan Kittell to Chad Santor, Aug. 2017
- Jamie Trindle to Andrew Frey, Aug. 2017
- Lisa Harmon to Jackson Ellis, Sept. 2017
- Carrie Lacillade to Adam Cyr, Sept. 2017
- Karia Young-Eagle to Daniel Riley, Sept. 2017

DEATHS

- Jeffrey Biron, proprietor of Dudley's Store, son of Gloria, father of Angela & Celine, brother of Michelle Harper & Anthony, died in Sept. 2017
- Robert Bragg, husband of Virginia, died in Sept. 2017
- Diane Dexter died in Aug. 2017
- Anna Towne died in Sept. 2017
- Alice Walbridge died in Sept. 2017
- Jacqueline Durkee died in Oct. 2017
- Andrew Kline died in Oct. 2017
- Sherrie Lyn Brewster died in Nov. 2017

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

- Key to deeds: W–Warranty Q–Quit Claim C–Corrective E–Easement
- Vermont Housing & Conservation Board to Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food & Markets, 360 acres on Drake Rd (W)
 - Arthur & Amanda Clark to Amanda Clark, 7.03 acres & dwelling on County Rd (Q)

- Edward & Joanna Day to Samuel Campbell-Nelson and Rebecca Jordan, 1.9 acres & dwelling on Center Rd (W)
- Robert Morse to Donald & Cynthia Drinkwine, 15.7 acres & dwelling on Daniels Dr (W)
- Fairmont Dairy to Cross Vermont Trail Association, trail easement, Lyle Young Rd (E)
- Sylvia Garletts to John R. Gillis, 0.59 acres & dwelling, Kelton Rd (Q)
- John R. Gillis to John R. Gillis, et. al, 0.59 acres & dwelling, Kelton Rd (C)
- Katherine Nelson to John Moriarty & Laura Conklin, 7 acres & dwelling on Guyette Rd (W)
- Beth Plante to Dennis Sherman, 1.8 acres & dwelling on VT145 (W)
- Richard & Mary Tousignant to John Butler & Jennifer Emens-Butler, 5.6 acres & dwelling on Stoney Corners Rd (W)
- Bradley Witham to Susan Witham, 5 acres on Bliss Rd (W)

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

October 2, 2017

Motions Passed:

- to adopt the 2017/18 Winter Roads Policy as presented (same as last year)
- to maintain the current reimbursement scheme for health benefits for town employees
- to authorize Town Administrator Johnson to complete and submit the application for the 2018 renewal of the town's membership in VLCT PACIF

October 16, 2017

Motions Passed:

- confirmed prior decision to allow WEC to install electric car-charging capability at newly constructed East Village Park 'n Ride with fees and other implementation to be decided later
- to accept the 102-6-2017 letter of engagement from attorney James Barlow for proceeding to a tax sale on parcel #06-045.000

November 6, 2017

Motions Passed:

- to create the East Montpelier Emergency Management Committee comprising selectboard members, the planning commission chair and vice-chair or their chosen delegates, the town's emergency management coordinator(s), the East Montpelier Volunteer Fire Department's chief, the town administrator, and the road foreman

- to authorize TA Johnson to sign and submit an FY19 Class B Better Roads Grant Program application for the proposed Snow Hill Road erosion control project
- to accept the Anderson Equipment quote of \$116,637 for a Komatsu- WA 270-8 wheel loader with the trade of the town's Volvo loader and make the purchase with a one-time payment from the Capital Reserve Fund
- to authorize Chair Gardner to sign the letter to the VT Department of Health acknowledging its inadvertent failure to get an asbestos removal permit prior to removing the old town garage on the site of the new Park 'n Ride
- to authorize the expenditure of \$1,376.96 to continue the NEMRC annual support agreement
- to appoint Chris Racanelli as the town's 2018 Green Up Coordinator

PLANNING COMMISSION

October 5, 2017

- Presented the latest work on the 2018 EM Town Plan and received public comment

October 19, 2017

- Continued work on latest draft 2018 Town Plan

November 9, 2017

Discussion items:

- update on Hazard Mitigation Plan
- updated latest draft of 2018 Town Plan

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

October 3, 2017

Motion passed:

- to approve the boundary adjustment for Application #17-041 submitted by Donald & Barbara Cote
- to approve the subdivision Application #17-042 submitted by East Montpelier Acres, LLC for their property on US2
- to elect Rich Curtis chair; Steve Kappel vice chair

November 7, 2017

Motions Passed:

- to approve the 8 ft. side setback waiver for Application #17-046 as presented by William and Tammy Atkins for their property on Quaker Rd

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD

Sept. 27, 2017

Motions Passed

- to reserve \$18,622 from the Reserve Fund Balance for healthcare reimbursement accounts

- to appoint Ms. Diaz-Smith as the EMES representative for VEHI/VSBIT annual meetings
- to approve the release of the Act 46 survey
- to approve the Act 46 letter to Cabot and Twinfield board chairs

October 25, 2017

Motions Passed:

- to approve ESP contract for 2017-19 school years
- to authorize the addition of a 0.1 FTE SLP and an 0.5 FTE special educator
- to approve use of general fund balance to fund the SLP and special educator positions just approved

U-32 SCHOOL BOARD

Sept. 27, 2017

Motions Passed:

- to approve reserving approximately \$99,000 of the fund balance for Healthcare Reimbursement Accounts
- to approve ESP contract for 2017-18
- to appoint Bill Kimball as board representative/proxy for VEHI/VSBIT annual meetings

October 25, 2017

- to approve the EST contract for the 2017-19 school years

Zeilenga, continued from page 1

this year, instead of the four teams she coached last year. She plays basketball on the Central Vermont Women's League team "Tuck's Repair." Oh, and Jillian is a kindergarten teacher at EMES. "Jillian is an exceptional teacher who brings her full creative heart to her job," says one parent. "We couldn't have hoped for a better experience for our child." Jillian was born in the U.S., but grew up in Ottawa, Canada. She attended Carleton University, where she met Jack, who also attended Carleton, on the basketball court.

Caelan, 11, is in Mrs. Shedd's and Mrs. Gallagher's 5/6 grade at EMES. He likes biking, soccer, basketball, baseball, and downhill skiing with his mom. Caelan also breakdances at the Contemporary Dance and Fitness Studio in Montpelier. "I like East Montpelier because my friends are not far away." He adds, "It was fun to go to the Recreation Field for a birthday party and play baseball."

Elliot, 8, is in Mrs. Christy's and Mrs. Christiano's third grade class. Besides playing outdoors and biking, he likes to play with the family chickens. Elliot also does breakdancing and school sports: soccer, basketball, and baseball. Both boys list basketball as their favorite sport.

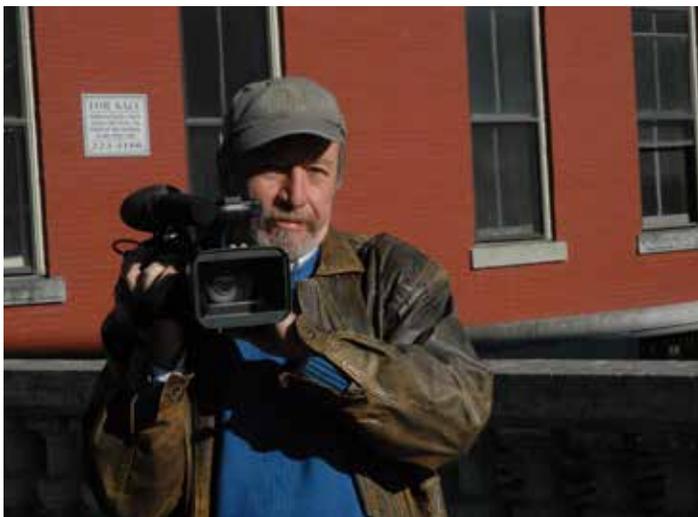
Why choose East Montpelier as a place to live? "This is a great place for them," Jack says. "The East Montpelier trail system runs right near our house." Jillian adds that there is "a sense of community in East Montpelier," which is different from her experience growing up in a suburb of Ottawa. "EMES is a small school, and it is easy to get to know people here." All of the Zeilengas count themselves lucky to be part of such a friendly, engaging, and supportive community.

How does this busy family stay organized? There are two large blackboards in the downstairs. One is by the front door and contains schedules, reminders, and other important information. The other is in the kitchen where menus, shopping lists, chores, etc. are listed. It can be a balancing act, especially in the winter, when basketball for some family members can happen five or six days in a given week. "We try to stay on schedule," Jack says. "That's always the goal: less chaos."

—Sue Clayton lives on Horn of the Moon Road with her husband, Put, and her little dog Kenzie. Her grandchildren live nearby and are frequent visitors.

Twin Valley Senior Center

Now that winter has settled in, Twin Valley Senior Center wants to remind you that it provides a great place come to meet friends, eat a meal, and take a class. TVSC has door-to-door free bus service to and from the center. So give us a try, and kick that isolation and loneliness away. Starting in mid-January, tax assistance sessions for all community members based on income and/or senior status will be available. On-line tax preparation will be provided by trained staff through AARP and is available to the public free of charge. Call the center at 223-3322.



WAYNE FONTENELLA, RESOURCEFUL RECORDING

the house they built and have expanded over the years features lots of glass and light, letting in the surrounding fall foliage when I visited.

Jim's core passion and profession, photography, fits well with his adventurous character, social conscience, and diverse interests. With a BA in Mass Communication from UVM and an MA in Media Production Studies at Vermont College of Norwich University, he has been an Associate Professor and Director of Media Services at Vermont College and Norwich. Jim Eaton Productions creates still photography and videos for artistic performances, corporate training and advertising, weddings, other events, as well as local photography exhibits.

His contributions and commissions are too numerous to list. Here is a sample of those for whom he has done work: the Center for Disease Control; the Vermont Captive Insurance Association, the Vermont Campground Association, the Holistic School of Business, the Barre Granite Association, the Spruce Mountain Granites, the Vermont Lottery, Department of Liquor Control, Stone Environmental, and the Sugarbush and Bolton Valley resorts. For several years he was editor and photographer of Barre Life, the trade magazine for the Vermont granite industry. His work has been published in the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Country Living*, *Fine Home Building*, *Campus Life*, *Ceramics Monthly*, *Vermont Life*, and the 2018 Vermont Life Weekly Calendar.

"Photography is a lot more fun than it used to be," Jim says. Gone are the days when he routinely took and developed thirty-five mm film contact sheets for each project. No more long hours in the darkroom. Now he can shoot numerous alternatives, scan, mix, and match, until the results suit his experienced eye and finely tuned sensitivities. With up-to-date equipment available from the new technologies—HD video cameras, a 24 megapixel Nikon still camera, and powerful iMac computer—he can creatively respond to a wide range of client interests and needs. He showed me striking examples created with his own large-format Epson printer.

Jim's cameras and travels have taken him to the volcanos, lava fields, and beaches of Hawaii's Big Island, Eleuthera and Barbados, the Iguazu Falls of Paraguay, Argentina, and Brazil.

He has explored the artistic wonders of Italy, Germany, and Switzerland. Most recently he reveled in the scenic beauty and cultural richness of Ireland.

When I asked what his most challenging commission or assignment was, he replied, "creating a nursing training series for Vermont College of Norwich University including stills and video of the nurse's role in birthing."

As to his most satisfying or enjoyable, he said, "I had a great experience at my one-person show at the Wood Art Gallery. When we arrived at the opening, over 80% of the photographs were already sold!"

Now enjoying "retirement," he likes Sugarbush's senior mid-week skiing, East Montpelier Nordic skiing, summer sailing on Lake Champlain, hiking, contemporary and classical music, and the theatre. An avid reader, he recommends Leonardo Da Vinci by Walter Isaacson.

And if, perchance, you would like a framed landscape print or photography or video of a wedding, family reunion, small business video for YouTube or your website, corporate meeting, or other event or activity, you can email him at jim.



We spent a few days on Inishmor, the smallest of the Aran Islands. In this photo of the island rocks, I was drawn to the forms nature has created, and now revel in seeing dragon's teeth or faces in the image. It was shot hi-res in color, but B&W works best.

eaton.productions@gmail.com to inquire about his services. Visit his websites for a gallery of photographs and links to sample his videos: PhotoVideoVT.com and PhotographyGalleryWorld.com.

—Art Chickering lives on Chickering Rd. with his wife, Jo.

The Old Brick Church operates a food shelf for the communities of Calais, Plainfield, and East Montpelier. Currently serving around 12 families, the food shelf is open on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. All are welcome to participate.

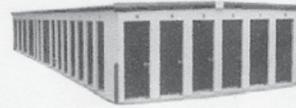


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CALENDAR

Tues. Jan. 16, 10-3 p.m. Blood Drive, Twin Valley Senior Center at 4583 US Route 2, East Montpelier. Call 802-223-3322 to schedule an appointment or email. info@twinvalleyseniors@myfairpoint.net. Each donation earns a \$5 Dunkin Donuts card.

Sat. May 5, 9-3 p.m. EMES, Green Up Day roadside trash pick-up. Call Chris Racanelli at 225-6032 for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES

Thurs. Jan. 18, 5 p.m. petitions for articles for the Town Meeting
Warning due at Town Office ~ 125 signatures

Mon. Jan 29, 5 p.m. candidate petitions due at Town Office ~ 25 signatures

Sat. Mar. 3, 9:30 a.m. Pre-Town and School Meeting Forum, EM Elementary School

Tues. Mar. 6, 9:30 a.m. Town and School Meetings, EMES

Tues. Mar 6, 12 p.m. Community Potluck, EMES

Tues. Mar. 6, 7 a.m.-7p.m. polls open for Town Meeting Day elections

Tues. Mar. 6, Town Office closed

Deadline for the next issue of the Signpost is Jan. 29

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