

# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXVIII—Number Four

March/April 2018

## Town Meeting Day: Tuesday, March 6



Photos: Alex Brown

### Voter Registration

Register at the Town Office Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m.–noon or at the polls on voting day. Register online at <https://mvp.sec.state.vt.us/>.

### Early or Absentee Voting

Ballots may be requested from the Town Office at 223-3313, Ext. 202, or may be picked up at the office. All ballots must be returned to the office by 5 p.m. on Monday, March 5, to be counted or they may be returned at the polling place on Tuesday, March 6.

### Town/School Forum

Saturday, March 3, 9:30 a.m.–noon at EMES. Come discuss all School and Town Warning articles, including the budget items that are to be voted by Australian ballot. The candidates for offices will be introduced. Remember to bring your copy of the Town Report.

### Town Meeting Day

Tuesday, March 6, 9:30 a.m. at EMES.

The Town and School Meetings are both warned for 9:30a.m. The Town Meeting will be first, followed by the School District Meeting. Child care will be available.

### Australian Ballot Voting

Tuesday, March 6, 7 a.m.–7 p.m. at EMES

### Town Meeting Day Potluck

Tuesday, March 6, around noon at EMES.

To volunteer, contact Sue Racanelli at 225-6032 or [racanellis@gmx.com](mailto:racanellis@gmx.com).

#### IN THIS ISSUE

3 — A Walk Down Town Potluck Lane

4 — They Want Your Vote

7 — 2018 Town Meeting Preview from the Selectboard

9 — East Montpelier Eats: The McKnight Farm

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## Top of the Signpost

We are well into winter now. The holidays are over, we endured a significant stretch of cold, and the days are getting a little bit longer. In Washington, that means they're back to bickering and pushing decisions crucial to our citizens and the operation of our country right to the brink, or even past it. In the realm of social media, opinions flare, but are mostly just blasted out into nowhere, with no real targets in mind, no real method of coming to a resolution.

But here in Vermont, the environment we live in forces attention to be paid to the immediate tasks in front of us. The weather affords us some welcome focus. We put another log on the fire, bundle up, scrape off the car, and head out to tackle whatever the day has in store.

The recent January thaw reminds us to look forward to spring, and with it, Town Meeting. The opportunity to meet with our neighbors, hold conversations, friendly and contentious, then settle our differences over lunch. Government with some sanity, by the People and for the People. Few other residents of this planet enjoy such direct access to the democratic process.

So take a few minutes, review the information here in the *Signpost* and in your Town Report, and start forming some thoughts about the future of our town. We are lucky to call this town our home; it's one of the finest places on earth. But decisions need to be made, and it's up to all of us.

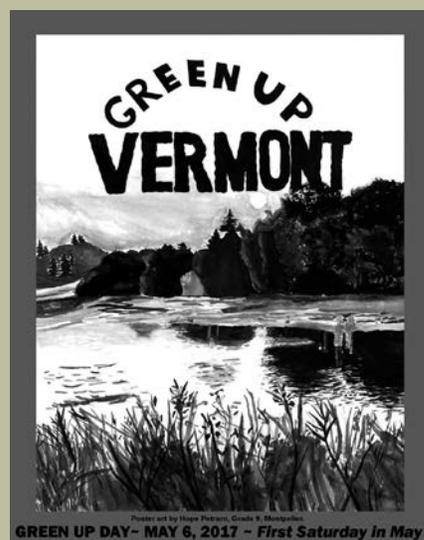
— *Austin Cate grew up in East Montpelier before going to college in 2000. He moved back to town in 2013 and enjoys living here with his wife and two children.*

## Green Up, Spring to Action!

Saturday, May 5. Mark your calendar. Get bags from the Town office, EMES, or Dudley's Store. Spend a few hours collecting trash around your neighborhood, then head over to East Montpelier Elementary School between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Lunch at the cafeteria: sandwiches, beverages, cookies!

### Support Green Up on your State Income Tax Return

Make a charitable contribution to Green Up Vermont through your Vermont State Income Tax Form on Line 29 or send a check to Green Up Vermont at P. O. Box 1191, Montpelier, VT 05601-1191. You can also make a secure donation online at the Green Up website, [www.greenupvermont.org](http://www.greenupvermont.org). Your gift is tax-deductible. Every donation is instrumental in helping keep Vermont clean and green!



## A Walk Down Town Potluck Lane

What year was it — 1995? 1999? Somewhere around there. Jean Cate gathered about four of us in East Montpelier Elementary School's (EMES) cafeteria. She had an idea—potluck lunch on Town Meeting Day. We hammered out many details that day. An important one was that we would not ask people to bring specific dishes; it would all work out.

And it did. It has to be Jean Cate's magic at work! Town Meeting Day Potluck has been working perfectly for the last 20 some years. It is a true group effort. Each year, we worry. Will there be enough food? Will we have enough volunteers? Do we have enough people on the cleanup crew? Will there be enough tables? What about coffee?

So many moving parts that all come together. Bob Watson at Capitol Grounds has donated every cup of coffee you've drunk at Town Meeting Day. Paul Cate has probably loaded just about every plate that's been used into the dishwasher. The mainte-

nance staff at EMES, Todd Hill and Brenda Clark, make sure we have enough tables for food and always help us review our needs as well as the setting up and taking down of cafeteria tables. And then there are the volunteers, too numerous to name: the bread cutters, those who watch over the ovens, those who bring out the food, and the cleanup crew. Price Chopper, Shaw's, and Hunger Mountain Coop all donate to the potluck—every year.

Somehow, it feels effortless. The Coordinator gets so many accolades every year—"great lunch!" "what a fabulous potluck this year," "thank you!" The potluck is the epitome of "many hands make light work." And really, it's Jean Cate—her spirit living on in the community of our once-a-year gathering. We'll see you all again on Town Meeting Day.

— Sue Racanelli is the current coordinator of the TM Potluck having been recruited by Rachael Grossman, the long-time successor and potluck partner of Jean Cate. Both live with their families on Brazier Road.

### Potluck Details

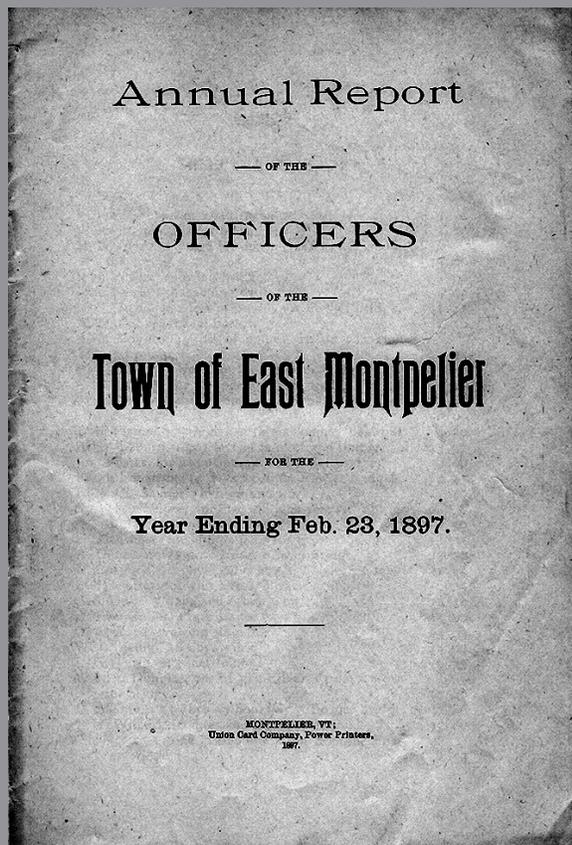
**Drop off food and collect lunch tickets:** 9:00–10:30 a.m., cafeteria

**Meals:** Your choice of appetizers, salads, main dishes, sides, bread/rolls, dessert

Label your dish, vegetarian, vegan, meat, gluten-free, nuts; your contribution should feed 8–12 guests

**Cost:** Free with a food contribution or \$5 if you can't bring a dish

**Contact for info or to volunteer:** Sue Racanelli, 802-225-6032, racanellis@gmx.com



SELECTMEN'S REPORT.	
V. Jewitt, repairing road machine,	\$ 1 50
V. Jewitt, 3 bands for piles,	1 50
M. N. Clark, damage for driving across his land in the spring,	3 00
John Fowier, snowing bridge,	1 00
John Fowler, sharpening drills,	5 97
L. G. Town, 111 feet of boards for Fowler bridge,	1 11
A. D. Coburn, canal barrow,	2 50
A. D. Coburn, 25 lbs. of spikes, frt. on wire rope and pump,	2 25
E. V. Duke, 4 1/2 days work on Fowler bridge,	9 50
F. H. Bruffee, for sharpening stone tools,	6 10
Frank Jackson, use of derrick and blocks on Fowler bridge,	50 00
T. B. Clements, 7 hours work and money paid out,	4 20
A. D. Coburn, 1,997 feet of lumber and timber,	13 97
Joel Foster, for use of pump on Fowler bridge,	5 00
Frank Lebaron, 1 1/2 days work on Fowler bridge,	2 25
Byron E. Sanders, lumber and work,	50
S. A. Batchelder, for use of jack-screws, Fowler bridge,	2 50
H. Dancause, mending chains for Fowler bridge,	45
A. Gunnison, 11 days work, Fowler bridge,	22 00
H. Boutwell, 20 days and 9 hours, Fowler bridge,	31 35
D. H. Patterson, with horse, 1/2 day, " " "	1 25
Geo. Duke, 7 days and 6 hours on " " "	11 40
Murray Cutler, 124 piles for " " "	35 00
C. A. Reed, drawing stone for " " "	23 00
W. Benjamin, 16 days work " " "	24 00
L. G. Town, 673 feet lumber " " "	6 73
Ward & Douglas, use of pile driver 13 days, Fowler bridge,	52 00
O. Sanborn, 55 days 3 1/2 hours, Fowler bridge,	96 86
J. M. Willard, 10 days and 8 hours, " " "	37 80
" " " one load stone from Sodom, Fowler bridge,	2 73

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# They Want Your Vote

*Descriptions taken largely from the VLCT Resource Manual and Vermont Law*

## Town and School District Moderator

*(elected separately; may be one or two individuals):  
one 1-year term*

*The moderator is the presiding officer of municipal and school meetings and shall decide questions of votes taken, except if Australian ballot is used. The moderator shall preserve order in the conduct of business and meetings.*



**Michael Duane:** I am running for re-election to the positions of town moderator and school district moderator because of my interest in supporting the continuation of local government traditions.

My wife, Ellen, and I have lived in Vermont since the mid-1970s, and we have been residents of East Montpelier for 35 years. I believe I have attended nearly every Town Meeting over that time. Our three children were born and raised in Vermont, and when they turned 18, one of the very first things we had them do was to go down to the East Montpelier Town Clerk's office and take the Freeman's Oath. We now have a two-year-old granddaughter and a newborn grandson, both of whom live in East Montpelier.

I have been interested in local government for many years and served as president of the Washington Electric Co-op from 1991 to 1998, during which time I presided over the monthly and annual meetings. I have also served on the town ancient roads committee, a town committee to explore the effect of land conservation on the property tax rate, and most recently on the town charter committee. I am also a member of the East Montpelier Historical Society and was a member of the board of the Hunger Mountain Co-op from 2008 to 2011, serving as president during my final year—again presiding over the monthly and annual meetings.

I have been the moderator of both bodies since 2015 and would be honored to serve again as the East Montpelier town and school district moderator. I hope my experience can be of some service to our town.

## Selectboard Member

*one 3-year term; one 2-year term*

*Selectboard members are responsible for general supervision of the affairs of the town and are responsible for seeing that all duties, not assigned by law to any particular officer, are carried out. The selectboard convenes town meetings and may enact ordinances and rules that regulate areas such as roads, traffic, waste disposal, animals, and nuisances as examples.*



**Seth Gardner,** 3-year term: My name is Seth Gardner. I live and farm on Snow Hill Road in East Montpelier. I call the farm the McKnight Farm in honor of the McKnight family that farmed here from 1796–1982. I have enjoyed serving the citizens of East Montpelier for the last eight years on the selectboard. Though it sometimes is challenging, I have always

kept the best interests of the residents in mind when faced with difficult decisions. I would be honored to serve on the selectboard for three more years. I bring common sense, a frugal mindset, and a strong work ethic to my selectboard job. As a result, I would appreciate your support and vote on Town Meeting Day.



**Eugene (Gene) Troia,** 2-year term: I have been a resident of East Montpelier residing on Vincent Flats Road for the past 31 years. My wife, Anne, and I have raised two sons here and are active community members. I own a small construction firm, Quaker Hill Building, specializing in energy-efficient new home construction with an emphasis on

using native wood species, local suppliers and craftsmen, and custom woodworking to produce our homes. Through my business, I regularly have the experience of being an applicant in the permitting process.

In the past, I have been chair of the East Montpelier board of adjustment and have held the position of town zoning administrator. I was an active member of our planning commission for eight years before being elected a selectboard member, in which role I have served for the past two years. I am currently chair of the capital improvement committee on which I serve as the selectboard representative.

Through my work on the capital improvement committee and selectboard, it has been my endeavor, as well as the selectboard's, to help provide a vision for East Montpelier's future as well as a stable town tax rate. I would like to continue on the selectboard in order to continue with this pursuit. It is my view that to be a self-determinate individual, one must put the time into the local community to help make the decisions that allow us to be free. I wish to continue as your representative on the town selectboard.

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## Lister

one 3-year term

Listers are responsible for determining the value of the real and personal property in town. This is the value the selectboard or the town will use to set a tax rate necessary to raise the money to operate the town in the next year. It is also the basis for the determination of the property wealth of the municipality for purposes of setting state education property taxes.



**Ross Hazel:** I am running for the office of lister here in East Montpelier. I have been a lister here since 2003 and have found the work to be both enjoyable and challenging. I do my best to evaluate the town's real property both fairly and accurately and to listen to the concerns of the town's property owners. I look forward to serving East Montpelier in the years ahead.

## Town Auditor

one 3-year term, one 2 years of a 3-year term

Town auditors are responsible for examining and adjusting the accounts of all town and school district officers and all other persons authorized by law to draw orders on the town treasurer. Secondly, they are to report their findings in writing to the legal voters of the town, presenting an easy-to-understand picture of the town's finances.



**Edward (Ed) Deegan,** 3-year term: I'm Ed Deegan, and I am running for the position of town auditor to which I was appointed recently. I've lived in East Montpelier for over 25 years with my wife, Keri-Ann Black-Deegan, and raised our four children in town. I've served on many committees within the town, including many years on the recreation committee, as well as the charter committee, capital budget committee, and as a U-32 district auditor. I work for my wife's public accounting firm, Keri-Ann Black-Deegan, CPA, PLLC and have experience in audit, as well as tax, and general accounting services. The town auditors have done a great job, and I hope to continue that tradition; I think my background will be an asset to the position.



**Carla Occaso,** 2 years of a 3-year term: I have lived in East Montpelier since 1967 (when I was 3)—with intermittent departures to college in New York City and other adventures, such as family life in the Northeast Kingdom. I attended kindergarten at the Morse one-room school house, elementary school at East Montpelier Elementary and junior and senior high school at U-32. From 2000 to 2007 I served as auditor for the town of Kirby, Vermont. I returned to East

Montpelier part time in 2010 and full time in 2014. My neighborhood is near Sparrow Farm Road and Gould Hill Road. I look forward to serving the town in any capacity.

## First Constable:

one 1-year term

East Montpelier has voted to prohibit constables from exercising any law enforcement authority. The constables serve as animal control officers and may be called on to serve civil or criminal process and to aid first responders when necessary.



**Sandy F. Conti:** I have served as the town's first constable and animal control officer for ten years and still find it interesting and, at times, challenging. I enjoy the opportunity to give back to the town that I have called home for more than 20 years. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve as the first constable for an eleventh term.

## Second Constable

one 1-year term

No candidate

## Planning Commissioner:

three 3-year terms

The planning commission is responsible for preparing and maintaining a current town plan and zoning regulations. It reviews significant developments and makes recommendations on issues including land development, transportation, economic and social development, historic, wetland, and scenic preservation.

**Mark Lane:** I have been on the planning commission for 14 years and would like to continue to serve our town. I grew up in East Montpelier and am very interested in the future of our town. Being aware of what is going on in town and helping with the planning and development of our town are important to me.



**John (Jack) Pauly:** I would like to keep working on updates to the Town Plan, the Land Use & Development Regulations, and whatever other regulations that come along in the next three years. I enjoy working with a wonderful group of people on the planning commission. I believe I have been on the planning commission for 18 years and would enjoy another three years. I want to keep East Montpelier the lovely town that it is.



**Jean Vissering:** I will be stepping down as chair of the planning commission, but I hope to continue to be involved in the PC's next endeavors to update our land use regulations and zoning districts, including creating new East Montpelier village zoning districts. I also want to do what I can to help make the village a vibrant place and to protect our natural resources and the incredible beauty of our town.

### Cemetery Commissioner

*one 5-year term, one 3 years of a 5-year term*

*The cemetery commissioners are responsible for the care and management of the town's cemeteries.*

**Jonathan Boucher,** 3 years of a 5-year term: No statement



**Emily Goyette,** 5-year term: I believe in public service and giving back to one's community. Since retiring last year after nine years as a U-32 school board member, I've been dying to find a new opportunity to serve our town. As a senior citizen, what could be a better fit than cemetery commissioner? Our family has lived in East Montpelier Center, between Cutler and Doty cemeteries, for almost 30 years. While I'm unfamiliar as yet with the duties of this position, I'm a quick study and promise to fulfill all responsibilities assigned. My professional work background is administrative: accounting, human resources, and office management, so I hope that experience will help behind the scenes. I also love gardening and the outdoors and will enjoy pitching in with the care and maintenance of our cemeteries as well.

### School Director

*School directors are responsible for managing the general affairs of the school district by developing policies and hiring able administrators to assure the soundness of the physical assets as well as the educational content and methods presented in student classrooms. They are responsible for convening school district meetings.*

### East Montpelier Elementary School Director

*one 3-year term; one 2-year term*



**Flor Diaz Smith,** 3-year term: I am seeking reelection to the EMES school board. I have played many roles in the past few years: helping to pass the bond vote in 2012 and overseeing the renovation of our beautiful school, serving as a representative for the Orange and Washington Central region on the Vermont School Boards Association board, and over the past two years serving on the Act 46 Committee in different positions, including chair and vice chair.

I value and understand the importance of collaboration among the board, superintendent, principal, teachers, staff, and parents for the common goal of achieving what is best for our students.

It is not easy to represent all voices in the community, but I am a patient listener and a good communicator. I believe education is the most important gift we give our children. A strong public education is the basis of our democracy and the key to successful communities. I appreciate your support over the years and look forward to the opportunity to serve our community for many more years to come.

If reelected I will continue to combine my love for children and people and my professional architectural experience with my passion for education to best serve our community.

I live with my husband, Dan, and our children, Mia (15) and Lincoln (12), on Horn of the Moon Road. We have a small family farm, raising beef cows, keeping chickens and goats, and sugaring in the spring.

Thank you for your consideration. You can contact me at 802-249-2279 or at diazsmith.flor@gmail.com



**Malinda (Lindy) Johnson,** 2-year term: I am seeking reelection as an EMES school director because I am interested in continuing my participation on the board and supporting our school in this capacity. In the past two years I have learned more about how the board works, and I find that I am able to contribute my experience to the decision-making that is required. I am an educator in a nearby district and have worked at EMES as well as WCSU, so I have an angle that others on the board may not. It is good to have a diverse board so that discussions can include people who currently have children in the school, people who have had children in the school, and those who come from various occupational backgrounds. I feel I am a good listener and questioner as we work on school-related matters.

The role of the board is to represent the community in decision-making concerning the budget and the vision of the school, while ensuring that learning outcomes meet expectations. Asking the right questions to guide policy and procedures is integral to making decisions that could have long-term implications.

I live on Sodom Pond Road with my husband Bruce. Our sons (R.B. & Will), who both graduated from U-32, have moved to Burlington to pursue their careers. On occasion, they still find time to leave the city and enjoy the quiet of East Montpelier for some sledding, home-cooking, and family time. East Montpelier is a wonderful town, and I want to be sure that families want to settle here and add to our student population!

## Thank you, Signpost Supporters!

Richard & Alice Angney  
Kathie Hickman

Karen Kane  
Patricia Woodward

## 2018 Town Meeting Preview from the Selectboard

The selectboard has included three articles on the 2018 Town Meeting Warning that may elicit some questions.

**Article 8:** The cemetery commission is requesting \$17,250 for its activities in FY2019. The commission's annual requests tended to be in the \$7,000 to \$11,000 range over the past 15 years. The issue this year is that the commission no longer has a fund balance other than the non-spendable perpetual care funds, which puts it in the position of requesting funding for its entire FY2019 budget. The selectboard intends to take this opportunity to open a discussion on the commission in general and how to present the commission's budget. The concern is that the commission is the only town body that is not directly funded through the general fund budget (the Article 3 town expenses article) even though its functions are standard town duties, its personnel are town employees, and the town is ultimately responsible for everything.

**Article 15:** Title 30, Chapter 82 of the Vermont Statutes describes how a group of towns can form a communications union district. One such district—known as ECFiber—is in the early stages of bringing fast Internet service to 24 East Central Vermont communities.

East Montpelier is one of at least 11 municipalities in Central Vermont that will vote on the creation of such a district in this area, tentatively called Central Vermont Internet (CVI). The concept is to have a local "municipality" provider that will string fiber optic cable on existing poles to the entire underserved population, provide high speed service at reasonable rates, be responsive and accountable to the community, and pledge to uphold net neutrality principles along with protection of privacy. CVI would be a subscriber-supported entity, with no town financial support or general property tax implications. The selectboard is in favor of East Montpelier being a founding member of CVI.

**Article 16:** Across the state, 350Vermont has made a concerted effort to place a non-binding climate resolution on the

warnings of 2018 Town Meetings. The resolution has two main components: the first is a directive to the state on how to move forward toward its stated goal of 90 percent renewable energy by 2050; the second is a series of specific commitments on the part of the town to aid the state in meeting its goal. The selectboard agreed to put the resolution on the warning in order to facilitate a discussion on the important and timely issues included in the resolution. The board is not taking a position on the resolution.

### New Town Plan in the Works

The planning commission (PC) has two important items on our upcoming agenda. First, you will be invited to a public hearing in early March on the latest version of the DRAFT 2018 Town Plan (date to be determined, check Front Porch Forum). The PC is updating the existing 2013 Town Plan which expires in June, and your input is welcome concerning this important document that directs future actions of the town.

Secondly, the planning commission will begin reviewing our zoning regulations and land use districts with assistance from a municipal planning grant. The goals of this project are 1) to create new village zoning as described in the East Montpelier Village Master Plan; and 2) to review the land use districts within the town as a whole. Our existing land use districts and regulations are outdated and reflect a 1970s suburban pattern, encouraging sprawling growth in rural areas but discouraging higher densities within villages. The PC will be exploring this issue over the next year.



Photo: Alex Brown

## New Directions at U-32

Brian Fischer became U-32's new food service director at the start of the 2016–17 school year, charged with the mission of improving the quality of the food served and increasing student participation. And, of course, he still needed to prepare foods the students want to eat. The challenge is accomplishing these goals while maintaining the nutritional value of the food served at U-32 according to the USDA guidelines.

One of Brian's first decisions was to eliminate the purchase of most pre-made foods that kitchen employees would just heat and serve. Instead, Brian has focused the efforts of his staff on preparing most dishes from scratch. They make fresh wraps, salads, fruit containers, and snack packs daily. Students can grab these and go to class—combining learning with a healthy snack. Brian is very focused on making sure his customers—our students—get the proper nutrition. One choice he made was to eliminate the salad bar. He found that many students would just take a couple of cucumbers or a tomato and were not getting the proper amount of fruits and vegetables in their lunch. The prepared fresh salads have correct portions, and very little waste is finding its way to the compost buckets, showing that the students are finding the food tasty as well.

Brian also notes that students are not always getting the proper nutrition at home. There are several factors that play into this. He told me, "The most important factor is that kids are not exposed to a wide variety of foods, mostly because they eat on the go, not too dissimilar to our own eating habits. One of the ways I am trying to change this is by slowly expanding their palates by trying new menu items. Everyone knows what pizza is like, but not everyone chooses to eat a pizza topped with veggies or different meats that aren't chock full of added nitrates."

Last year Brian won a grant from the state that allowed U-32 to purchase a brand new charcoal grill. He has been grilling fresh chicken breasts, burgers, tofu, pork loin/chops, veggies, and many other delicious foods. He primarily notes he is now selling more sandwiches because of the new option to add grilled chicken to any sandwich, as well as on most of his salads.

Brian's long-term goal is to move toward a farm-to-table approach to acquiring the food for his program. He has already started by purchasing as much as he can from local Montpelier vendors. We have some students who are vegans, and Brian uses a local bean crafter to provide the bean "burgers." He also uses a



local coffee company and would like to purchase more meats and produce locally. Brian expects this program to be fully implemented over the next four to five years.

Brian employs six full-time workers in the kitchen; according to long-time employee Vicky Cook, he is the best boss she has ever had. "He is able to stay calm and easygoing in the fast-paced environment of a busy kitchen." Although change can be hard, Vicky supports all the changes Brian has made and thinks their program is the best it has ever been.

Brian also works with the students. This year he is sponsoring two teams of middle school students in the Iron Chef competition. The students will need to develop a recipe to meet local and nutritional requirements, practice their recipe and then prepare it for the competition. They will be judged on speed, taste, and presentation of their creation.

As many of you may know, the food service program is not supported by tax dollars. In past years the program often ran a deficit, but last year, for the first time in many years, the program actually made a surplus. Brian credits this to being more organized about labor and purchasing supplies.

U-32 is proud of its food service program and the changes Brian has brought to the program.

—Kathy Topping is a teacher at U-32 and the Signpost coordinator with the school.

### EAST MONTPELIER TRAILS, INC.

East  
Montpelier  
Trail



East Montpelier Trails is ever appreciative for the generous community contribution towards construction, maintenance, and improvement of our town trails system. In 2017 we completed construction and signage for the new Ormsbee Trail and the Karen Clark Trail. We continue to work on signs for the trailheads, signage along the trails, and safe parking for trail use. Work will continue in 2018 on our ongoing project to replace the Mallory Brook bridge, and we look forward to exploring routes for new trails. The Trails board always welcomes volunteers for trail work and assistance in grant writing. Please see our website, [emtrails.org](http://emtrails.org), and visit our Facebook page, @EastMontpelierTrails, to find trail maps and learn how to help. Get out and enjoy the trails, and many thanks for your support.

## 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:** Ginny Burley 272-4045

**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  
Stephen Looke                  Flor Diaz-Smith

### State Representative

Kimberly Jessup, 249-9306  
jessupkimberly@gmail.com



The McKnight Farm is owned by Seth Gardner and operated by Seth with help from me, his partner, Kim Watson. We are a NOFA-certified organic beef and dairy farm. Our organic milk is sold to Horizon Organic for global distribution. All of our animals are born and raised on the farm.

Seth has been raising his own food and farming since he was a child growing up in Cabot, Vermont, and Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. He started the dairy farm in 1992 with about ten heifer calves while still working as a farrier; he transitioned to be NOFA certified organic in 2006. This certification requires an annual inspection to ensure conformance with strict organic standards—restricted use of chemicals, hormones, antibiotics, GMOs, and required rotational grazing. The farm today has over 620 free ranging cows with a herd of 330 milking cows.

Being a successful farmer requires sufficient money, time, equipment, and land, in addition to perseverance and the will to succeed. Farmers work every day, all day. It does not always go smoothly; you must have a can-do attitude and good management skills. Even so, Seth and I still find time to play polo throughout the year with the Sugarbush Polo Club.

There are many opportunities to get into farming, but you need to be prepared to work—a lot—and to persevere! Don't be afraid to take risks.

Our products are available at our on-site farm store, at 440 Snow Hill Road, in the milk house. We sell organic raw milk, beef, and organically raised chicken, pork (smoked bacon and hams), eggs, and hay. Our products are also available at many other locations. We would love to talk to you about farming. You can contact us by calling 802-272-3478 or 802-223-1370. Best time to call is in the morning.

—Kim Watson has been a resident of EM since 1986 and currently works for Stone Environmental as an environmental consultant, data assessment manager, and quality assurance manager which she has been passionately doing for over 35 years.



## Historical Societies Spring Plans

The East Montpelier and Calais Historical Societies will meet on Monday, March 19, at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck supper and program at the Old Brick Church in East Montpelier Village. Our speaker will be Chris Reed, describing his kayak trip this past summer along the Champlain and Erie Canals with pictures of many of the locks and historic sites along the way. A short business meeting will follow the talk.

Look for the EMHS exhibit table at Town Meeting, and please consider becoming a member! We will have our publications for sale, too.

The April meeting of these groups will be on Monday, April 16, at 6:00 p.m. at the East Calais Recreation Center in East Calais Village. There will be a potluck supper followed by our annual sugar-on-snow dessert. The program will be stories of sugaring times in our towns. A door prize raffle will be offered as well. A short business meeting will follow the program.

Both meetings are free and open to the public, and you may attend the potluck first or just come for the program at 6:45. Bring a dish to share and your own place settings. Coffee provided. See our web site [www.eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org) or contact Sandal Cate, sandal@sover.net, 223-6466 for more information.

## Act 46 Update

After a two-year process, the WCSU Act 46 Committee proposed an Alternative Governance Structure to meet the goals of Act 46. The proposal seeks to maximize coordination, equity, efficiency, excellence, transparency, and accountability among our schools and for all our students while maintaining our current governance structure.

The proposal was a hard-won compromise. We were a chariot with two headstrong horses, and after a lot of talking and listening, we compromised. This proposal brings together head and heart, and it focuses on the positive aspects of education in our district right now. This decision is an affirmation of the work we have been doing and a re-affirmation of our desire to provide even better outcomes for all our kids. We have learned a lot from each other and have a better understanding of each other's communities. We are now at a unique moment in time where we are all willing to continue to work together, understanding that we have a great deal in common and that the kids in Washington Central are all "our" kids.

An Alternative Governance Structure under the law means anything other than the consolidated governance model (one board and one budget for the whole supervisory union) that Act 46 proposes. We have to demonstrate to the Agency of Education that our alternative structure ultimately meets the highest priority: the wellbeing of all the kids and the access to opportunities and equity.

As we considered consolidated governance, we were divided on two main issues: local control and the sharing of debt. Ultimately, this is too important a decision to be forced, and time may be an ally. We still have much to learn about working together and modeling and inspiring good, centralized leadership. Having said that, we have done a lot of work, and this model provides the foundation for the continuation of our work together. We will continue to take advantage of the community outreach of the last couple of years and to share information with you.

Our proposal was submitted in December; we won't know until November 30, 2018 if the Agency of Education will accept our alternative proposal.

Please take the time to read the proposal and feel free to ask any questions. A link can be found at [www.wcsu32.org](http://www.wcsu32.org).

—Flor Diaz Smith is an EMES school director and has been part of the Act 46 Committee from the beginning.



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[themothehenllc@gmail.com](mailto:themothehenllc@gmail.com)  
Come enjoy the quiet and serenity...

## Town Weathervane

Due to lack of space, summaries of the minutes of public meetings may be found on the Signpost website at [www.emsignpost.com](http://www.emsignpost.com).

### Births

- Emerson Louise Remer, daughter, born in October 2017 to Kristen & James Remer
- Evelyn Mae Seitz, daughter, born in January 2018 to Jenna Beattie and Eric Seitz

### Marriages

- Robin Olsen to Lawrence Daugherty, December 2017

### Deaths

- Madeline Cutler died in December 2017
- Charles Haynes died in December 2017, husband of Martha and father of Paul
- Frank Campbell died in January 2018, husband of Edna, brother of Edna Corliss, and father of Frank, Bryan, and Laura Garand
- David Grundy died in January 2018, husband of Darlene and father of Matthew
- Elizabeth LaFrance died in January 2018, wife of Richard, mother of Bill Atkins

### Property Transfers

Key to Deed Types: W=Warranty Q=Quit Claim C=Corrective E=Easement M=Mobile Home

- Rita & Elyse Gluck to Craig & Jessica Premont, 1.3 acres and dwelling on Lyle Haven Rd (W)
- Roy Gibson, Trustee of the Montpelier Trust, to Lindsay Thrall, 0.69 acres & dwelling on Maplewood Rd (W)
- Jason & Ashley Felch to Laura Rappold, 1 acre & dwelling on County Rd (W)
- Christopher Kiper & Katharine Phelps to David Littlefield & Caitlyn Phelps, 7.42 acres & dwelling on Horn of the Moon Rd (W)
- Lester Birnbaum & Allison Caldwell to Ian & Judy Buchanan, 5.69 acres & dwelling on Sparrow Farm Rd (W)
- Glenn Bailey to Joy Partridge & James Huntsman, 7 acres & dwelling on Fitch Rd (W)
- Willa Darley Chapin (f/k/a Willa Davidian) to Blair & Holly Vance, 11.93 acres & dwelling on Mabuhay Dr (W)
- Lawrence Reed to Cynthia Reed, 5.6 acres & dwelling on US2 (Q)
- Lenore Joy to Michael McCarty & Marlene McCarty, 27 acres of open land off Jacobs Rd (W)

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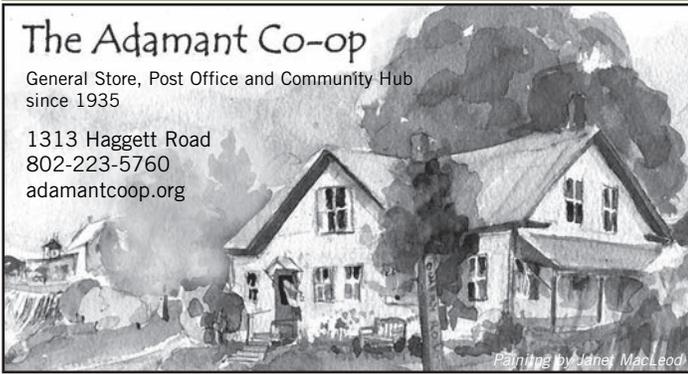
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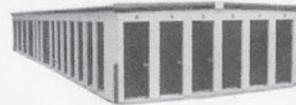
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**Rabies & Dog Licensing Clinic**  
**Thursday, March 15, 2018**  
**6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.**  
**DOGS & CATS**

East Montpelier Fire Department  
Station #2 – 54 Village Acres  
Vaccines: \$15 per animal  
Dog Licenses: \$9 for spayed/  
neutered; \$13 if unaltered  
Proceeds from vaccinations benefit  
the EMFD Donation Fund

[www.emSignpost.com](http://www.emSignpost.com)

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Business Supporters

Links to Other Town Information

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

## CALENDAR

**Sat. Mar. 3, 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.** Pre-Town/School District Forum, EMES

**Mon. Mar. 5, 6:00 p.m.** U-32 District Informational Meeting, U-32, Room 131

**Tues. Mar. 6, 9:30 a.m.** Town Meeting, polls open 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m., EMES

**Mon. Mar. 19, 6:00 p.m.** Joint meeting of EM & Calais Historical Societies & potluck, EM Old Brick Church

**Mon. Apr. 16, 6:00 p.m.** Joint meeting of EM & Calais Historical Societies potluck and sugar-on-snow, East Calais Recreation Center

**Sat. May 5, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.** Lunch 11-1:00, Green Up Day roadside trash pick-up; for more info call Chris Racanelli at 225-6032

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Mon. Mar. 5, 5:00 p.m.** Deadline to return absentee ballots to Town Office (may be returned to polling place on Mar 6)

**Thurs. Mar. 15, 6:00–7:30 p.m.** Rabies Clinic, EM Fire Dept. Dogs may be registered at the same time

**Fri. Mar 30, 12:00 p.m.** Dog registration deadline, Town Office, \$9 spayed/neutered \$13 not, current rabies vaccine required

**Tues. May 15, 5:00 p.m.** Property Tax Installment deadline; must be stamped "received" at Town Office to avoid 8 percent penalty; no postmarks accepted

**Mon. May 28**, Memorial Day, Town Office closed

*The deadline for the next issue of the Signpost is March 30*

## 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: blusig@aol.com /229-5441  
Town Office Building  
Elementary School  
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