



# EAST MONTPELIER Signpost

Volume XXX—Number One

September/October 2019

celebrating **30** years  
of community

## Individuals Count

**Marty & Edie Miller**

*Ann Stanton*

Marty and Edie Miller have lived nearly 50 years in East Montpelier, and right from the start they have been active in the community. Marty noted that the opportunity to do some good and have some influence motivated him to run for moderator of Town Meeting and the School Meeting, posts that he held for many years. Although love of family came first, Edie says, "Everyone wants to be part of something larger, and the beauty of East Montpelier has always been how easy it is to become involved in the larger community. So many volunteer opportunities!"

They came to Vermont from Philadelphia, where involvement was more distant, on a different scale. "Individuals count in East Montpelier," Marty asserted and Edie affirmed. Edie has served on the Selectboard and headed up the Conservation Advisory Committee, the Charter Committee, and the Energy Committee, among others. More recently, she was a representative to the Washington Central Supervisory Union committee trying to work out a merger agreement. Also, she has been the chief honcho of the *East Montpelier Signpost*, keeping everyone organized. Marty sums up East Montpelier as an easy place to like: the town is beautiful, the people are kind and supportive, and the discourse in public settings is both civil and enjoyable.

These assets should serve us well moving into the future. The town zoning will go a long way toward maintaining its agricultural character. The Selectboard has done a good job at "villagizing" the physical town. Marty envisions the town offices moving to be adjacent to the school, as a "mini-center" of public offices. He believes our school has the potential to be the premier school in the area, not only because of its physical assets but because of its character. Teachers and administrators know the name of every child, so every child can feel known and that they belong. Now all we need is a senior living facility. (There is a committee working toward that.)

The two Millers have been instrumental in weaving the fabric of the East Montpelier community. Now it's up to the rest of us to keep those efforts going.



*Photo by Terry J. Allen*

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## Top of the Signpost

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Newspaper Debuts! The *Signpost's* Volume 1, Number 1 issue was published for September/October 1990. Under the headline "Newspaper Debuts," they described the inspiration and goals behind this new community endeavor: "The concept of 'community' comes up a lot in talking about East Montpelier. The sense of working together, of caring for each other and for the town, seems to be in the soil and the blood of this town. Perhaps then, it's no surprise that a group of residents decided to create a newspaper to foster 'community-ism' and to keep people in touch with what's going on in town." Thirty years later, these are still the goals of the *Signpost* and the volunteers who help publish it six times per year.

For the theme of this 30th anniversary issue, we asked our readers to reflect on the past 30 years and to think about the next 30 years. Below is a collection of voices from the community describing the East Montpelier they know and love. If you feel moved by something you read in this issue, continue the conversation on Front Porch Forum, at Town Meeting, or at the Harvest Festival on October 5, 2019 at East Montpelier Elementary School. Jillian Zeilenga is organizing a day of community and family fun, including a farmer's market, fun run, and fireworks. She has set up a Facebook page called East Montpelier Harvest Festival where you can find more information. Here's to East Montpelier and the next 30 years!

—Michelle Singer has been a Signpost volunteer since 2012

EAST MONTPELIER  
**SIGNPOST**  
Volume 1, No. 1      September/October 1990

**RALLY DAY!**

Declaring that Rally Day "is a time when each of our citizens can pause to appreciate the values of small town living, touch again the lives of our neighbors, and glory in our town's natural surroundings." East Montpelier Selectmen have proclaimed September 8 as Rally Day and urge everyone to participate in the day's activities.

Organized by the Community Activities Committee of the Planning Commission, the day's program will include several of last year's successful features as well as new attractions.

There will be softball games and "new games" at the Elementary School, which will also serve as headquarters for the day. A craft and hobby show where East Montpelier citizens can exhibit their skills and interests will occupy the gym. Those wishing to participate in the show should call Sylvia Tosi (223-3240 (h) or 223-3313 (w)) or Jennifer Boyer (223-8926).

The popular afternoon bus ride around town will be repeated focussing on historic buildings and homes and include a stop at the Old Meeting Meeting House in the Center with refreshments available. The tour is \$3, payable in advance. Call Anne Sherman (223-2693) to reserve your place on the bus.

A special feature will be the dedication of the Town Forest, with hikes through the forest. Tours of several farms will be offered as well as a number of hikes in different parts of the town. A "wheel show" is also planned with historic vehicles.

The day's activities will conclude with a baked bean supper at the Old Brick Church at 5:30 (reservations should be made with Shirley Wright, 223-5705, \$5 adults, \$2.50 children) and a variety show at the elementary school at 7:30 in the East Montpelier tradition of local fun and entertainment. You are all cordially invited to join in the activities.

**NEWS**  
**PUBLISHER**  
**DEBUTS**

The concept of "community" comes up a lot in talking about East Montpelier. The sense of working together, of caring for each other and for the town, seems to be in the soil and the blood of this town. Perhaps then, it's no surprise that a group of residents decided to create a newspaper to foster "community-ism" and to keep people in touch with what's going on in town.

The *SIGNPOST* committee has met since spring to lay the groundwork for a paper that will report town government meetings and local events, and provide features on people and businesses. It will be mailed to every household in town, with subscriptions for out-of-town readers at \$8 a year. And oh yes...we hope it will be fun to read!

**Jean Cate, Publisher, 223-2951**  
**Cherie Langer, Managing Editor, 229-4858**  
**Janet MacLeod, Artist, 229-4349**  
**Becky Reed, Town Affairs, 223-7707**  
**Anne Sherman, Treasurer, 223-2693**  
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**Janice Waterman, News Editor, 223-5826**

# Was it Really Thirty Years Ago?

Andrew Christiansen

Despite the squawks and squeals from the modem, my legislative column to the *Times Argus* didn't always fit through the phone line, and I would need to resort to an envelope and postage stamp. Unlike the paragraphs you see here, easily sent through email, there was no internet connection but AOL—also, few laptops, no Google, and no iPhones to be yoked to. Our town, after careful deliberation, spent \$10,000 for a computer and software, including Wordstar 5.0.

Vermont dairy farms were on the decline, but there were still a dozen or so farms, (including our farm) in East Montpelier. In 1989, Austin Cleaves was the Farmer of the Year and was feted at the Farm Show at the Barre Auditorium. That same year saw the beginning of the Conservation Fund, trails in the town forest, and the election of Tony Klein to the school board. As the federal government slashed social spending, local towns picked up the

slack. Only 12 organizations sought assistance from the town in 1989, compared to 38 today. The school age population has shrunk, as it has across rural America, so there are 68 fewer K–6 kids in our elementary school.

So what does the future look like? For starters, as the state moves towards a regional governance structure, town meetings will become irrelevant and disappear. The overriding issue will be the environment. In 1989, we didn't contemplate end-of-the-world scenarios in our lifetime or consider the likelihood of climate refugees. Today, we do. I fear the loss of democracy and the instability which will follow. If that time comes, it will be more important than ever for us to rediscover what we've always had in East Montpelier—the can-do spirit which built our schools, a willingness to work together, and helping neighbors when times are tough.

## Food for Thought

Erica Zimmerman

About twelve days a year, I spend hours circling my fields on a tractor, making hay. The work produces fodder for my grass-fed sheep during the winter months, feed that maintains a closed nutrient cycle, yields sustainable, healthy meat, and builds soil that absorbs carbon. But those concentric trips also give me time to look out over the hills surrounding the Bennett and Mallory Brooks just north of the Center. By the very nature of the work, these days are inevitably sunny and clear, and they give plenty of time to absorb the detail of the contours, the color and shape of the treelines and woods, the tillage and planting of the farmed fields, the texture of the land left fallow, and the wetlands. Only one house has changed in this view-shed during the 15 years we have farmed here—a transformation of an old farmstead. The only other structures built are solar panels collecting the sun's energy. I notice their reflection and appreciate them—for the forward-thinking investment in sustainability of those who built them (and I'll admit also for the pride I share that these neighbors all entrusted my husband's company with these projects).

This past round of tedding, I used the occasion to try to think ahead 30 years.

While I certainly hope I will still be enjoying the beauty of these views, I am sure it won't be from the seat of a tractor. But someone will be... Perhaps they, like I, will be confronting sustainability challenges in stewarding the land. This year, foresight took center stage as we reworked our hay schedule for our upper field off Brazier Road to accommodate the needs of the ground-nesting birds who clearly treasure its high vantage point and expanses free from tree line and forests. After plenty of angst and lots of monitoring and advising from naturalists, led by our own Nona Estrin, we discovered that we could delay our haying



Photo: Erica Zimmerman

long enough to give them the time they need to fledge their baby birds. We also spent hours cutting and chipping buckthorn from the roadside—just a dent in a huge invasion of this aggressive shrub—and a day digging wild chervil from the drainage ditch where it tries to make inroads. None of that time yields any profits, but is an investment in maintaining the riches we have.

The land we farm was protected from development by a Land Trust agreement about 40 years ago. What considerations might the land stewards have in 30 years? What will they know about conserving species and building soil? Will East Montpelier still be able to harbor both large and small farms, open working land and protected natural expanses, growing young families, and sheltering shrinking ones? Will one or two of those other households collaborate with us or other landowners to work this farm and others? Will our young people still flock to this and other farms to learn to work with animals and appreciate the fun and complexity of raising them? Will these lands still help feed our neighbors?

## Then and Now

John Hall

Fifty-four years ago this coming October, Donna and I bought our farm on Putnam Road in East Montpelier. The 207-acre property included the house, barn, a full line of haying and milking equipment, two tractors, and other miscellaneous tools. There were also 32 milking cows, eight bred heifers, and six calves. We paid Nelson and Edith Baldwin just over \$50,000 for all the above. Both parties at the time felt it was a fair price. However, some thought that those young Halls were crazy to have paid such an amount.

At the time there were 45 dairy farms in town that shipped milk. In the mid-1960s, East Montpelier was a vibrant agricultural community with an infrastructure supporting the farms that included cattle and equipment dealers, large animal veterinarians, and four feed

dealers. Our neighbors were nearly all farmers doing the same thing: milking cows twice a day, raising crops, and caring for their cattle.

Donna and I worked the farm as partners. We came to town with three children and a fourth on the way. Amazingly, that first year we made ends meet, incurring no new debt. The first five years on the farm passed quickly. I served on the school board and later as selectman for six years, after which I was appointed to the planning commission.

By that time, due to an enduring low milk price, dairy farming had lost its appeal. Many of the 45 farms sold their cows and left the dairy business. Available land was developed, rented, or purchased by larger farms. Jerome Rappaport of Boston also showed a keen interest in owning farms in East Montpelier. He purchased four and wanted the fifth, the McKnight Farm on Snow Hill, but lost out in a bid for ownership. In short order, Rappaport became the largest owner of developable agriculture

land in town, raising the potential for East Montpelier to become an urban bedroom community.

It so happened, at that time, that the planning commission was faced with the task of renewing our town plan. However, we didn't have a clue as to what folks wanted for their town. We made the effort to find out, writing a questionnaire and sending it to each person on the grand list.

While many different desires for the future were expressed, one wish prevailed: that our town should remain rural and agricultural. With the results of the questionnaire, a plan of action meeting was held on February 4, 1988. This meeting established what was to become the future character of East Montpelier. Various working committees

were formed, most notably The Conservation Fund Advisory Committee, the trails committee, and the communication committee, which resulted in the publication two years later of the *East Montpelier Signpost*.

Statewide, this period also brought about the Vermont Land Trust and The Housing and Conservation Board, providing funds to support the purchase of development rights. Conservation efforts through town funds to leverage various projects have protected a large portion of our working East Montpelier lands—nearly 3000 acres—as well as establishing permanent trails throughout the town.

Although there are presently only three farms in town shipping milk, we know that in the future our conserved lands will be agriculturally active. Of course, no one knows what type of farming will continue in town. We expect East Montpelier's rich soils will see a variety of uses. Of course, my family and I hope it will include growing crops for dairy farming.



John and Donna Hall's Farm, Circa 1965

## Why We Came to East Montpelier

Merry Schmidt

The short answer to why we moved 3,000 miles to Vermont six years ago is easy: grandkids. But they are only one of the reasons we stay. We had searched for real estate throughout Washington County for nine months. However, when we found our home in East Montpelier, it "had us at hello"—aka the end of the driveway. We just knew we wanted to live not only in this house, but also in

this town. For one thing, we're only two and a half miles from our kids. For another, though we're conveniently close to Montpelier, we feel like we live in a remote, rural location. It's so lovely, quiet, peaceful, bucolic, neighborly, and lush. It would be hard to think of living anywhere else at this point.

## How East Montpelier Has Changed

Barbara Ploof

My family moved from Montpelier to East Montpelier more than 40 years ago. The decision to move was mostly based on finding a house that we really liked, but also because East Montpelier was known as a nice town to live in, and the school had a good reputation too. We did find that to be true: nice neighbors and a good school and certainly a sense of community. I was struck by the East Montpelier pride that was held by many people. Some of them who are gone now were, for years, devoted to doing things well in our town. The ones I am thinking of are Rosie Cueto, Ann Sherman, Dave Grundy, Sylvia Tosi, and Dave Coburn. There were, of course, many others. Two who moved here not too far after us were Jean and Wes Cate. They seemed to have come with the intention of increasing the community spirit in East Montpelier. Their opportunity to really make a difference came in 1988 when the Planning Commission organized a town planning day with the intention of finding out from the town's people what changes they would like to see.

One committee, chaired by Jean Cate, focused on community activities. Two activities initiated were creating a town newsletter and establishing a special community day. Wes Cate had already put together two issues of a newsletter. The longevity of the *Signpost* was ensured by recruiting volunteers to write, organize, and edit the articles, led by Jean Cate. This is the 30th year of publication of the *Signpost*. The other idea was a September Rally

Day. The first Rally Days were well attended and full of energy. Over the years, however, attendance dropped off; eventually, no chair for Rally Day could be found. After Jean Cate died in 2004, Wes Cate formed a fund from donations made in her memory and put together a committee to continue initiating community activities. Some were forums to discuss community questions. Others, which have lasted for years, are the neighborhood potluck suppers and the Green Up Day lunch.

Unfortunately, some neighborhood potluck suppers happen less often or not at all. The Green Up Day lunch serves somewhat fewer people than it used to. It seems that one change in East Montpelier may be a decrease in the number of citizens who create or participate in community activities. However, I still love living in East Montpelier and hope the sense of community will continue.

When looking at the next 30 years, I can only wonder what our town will become. I think people will move here fleeing the more dramatic effects of climate change elsewhere. Many of these folks will be able to make the move because of holding jobs that allow telecommuting. I imagine such folks will work alone at home and will be looking for a sense of community in their neighborhoods and town. If we're lucky, some will volunteer to lead the way to maintaining the community spirit we enjoy.

## The Changing of the Guard

Sandal Cate

My husband and I moved into town in the 1970s. Over the years, we came to know many residents who have now left our community. In reflecting on these folks, I think of all the good influences they had on our town. Many lived in old houses; and most of them worked to maintain these homes as well as their yards, gardens, and the surrounding fields and woods, giving a "Vermont Life" appearance to our neighborhoods. Additionally, many of them contributed to town activities in a variety of ways, helping to keep the social fabric strong.

Thirty years is more than a "family generation." I imagine that these folks would only hope that we, the current residents, will continue to maintain the handsome rural look of East Montpelier. We remain indebted to them for their fine efforts in showing subsequent generations what a special way of life we are privileged to live. Below is a list of some of the people I remember often as I pass by their former properties. Add your own names—my list is not meant to exclude anyone. I hope you will take time to reflect on your neighbors who left such richness to our town.

Barbara & George Fitch, Fitch Rd.  
Harry & Dot Morse, County Rd.  
Bradford & Ruth Lane, Horn of the Moon Rd.  
Ed & Dora Lane, County Rd.  
Carroll Badger, Center Rd.  
Conrad & Anne Ormsbee, Center Rd.  
Roger & Gen Chapell, Center Rd.  
Lucy & Gary Pfeiffer, North St.

Mary & Ted Brenneman, County Rd.  
Herman & Dorothy Sparrow, Sparrow Farm Rd.  
Jean & Weston Cate, County Rd.  
Dave & Darlene Grundy, Clark Rd.  
David Coburn, Daggett Rd.  
Maybeth & Allen Butler, Center Rd.  
A. John & Polly Holden, Templeton Rd.  
George & Helen Allen, Rte. 14

## East Montpelier, A Glimpse Back in Time

Carolyn Pastore

I first came to East Montpelier fifty years ago to teach a combined first, second, and third grade class. I was hired after a phone conversation with Cora Copping, principal of EMES. She hadn't met me, but Pete Johnson, the superintendent, had met me when I visited him at his office located where the town offices are now. My how times have changed! That summer, when my husband Harold and I drove up from Long Island to see the school and find a place to live, I-89 didn't even come to Montpelier. It ended around Sharon. Driving along a two-lane country road, we wondered what we'd gotten ourselves into.

As we got our first glimpse of EMES, we knew it would be a special place. We met Cora and had a tour of the "new school" as she referred to it. She explained that most of the teachers had come from one-room schools and had moved in with their

students only a couple of years before. Cora was very welcoming as were the other educators we met. We were both struck by the stunning location of EMES with its lush green fields and surrounding woods. Just beautiful, we thought! Now could we find a place to live?

As chance would have it, we came out of the Coffee Corner and met a man who was near our car looking at our beagle. He was friendly and we mentioned that we were looking for an apartment. He said he had one and would be ok with our dog. We quickly asked to see it and followed him to the "meadow" area

off Elm Street to find a lovely second floor apartment in one of those Victorian homes with a turret. We were hooked, but still not sure if we'd survive more than a year.

Fast forward nine years, and we were looking for land. After much searching in the surrounding area, we were always drawn back to East Montpelier. I'd gotten to know lots of wonderful parents of my students and others in the community. If only we could find that special piece of land!

Then one summer day as we were showing my dad some places we liked, IT HAPPENED! We drove down Powder Horn Glen Road and there at the end of the road was a hockey stick in the ground with "For Sale" and a phone number written on it. We bought it that very day. It's been forty years since we moved in, and it's still one of my favorite spots in East Montpelier.

I've seen many changes come to our town, but to me the constant is the people in our town. My neighborhood has seen a transition as young families have moved in and become part of our extended families. EMES has changed with each renovation, but this school is still the wonderful and welcoming place it has always been. Since retiring from teaching, I've done substitute teaching and visited classrooms with my dog, Cuddles. Each time I'm there, I am again struck by the beauty of the environment, the welcoming feeling, and the school itself. It spoke to me fifty years ago and still speaks to me today.

## Memories of Long Ago

Norma Raymond

It is difficult for me to write an article about the changes in our town for the last 30 years since the *Signpost* was started. I have lived in this town for 71 years and it is hard to remember just when some changes were made. I moved to East Montpelier in 1948 when I was 25. As I sometimes say, "I grew up and grew old here." We soon learned that the Cutler School in our neighborhood had closed and children had to be taken to the village two-room school. I drove my son to school in my 20-year-old Model A Ford. It took a very short time for the neighbors to ask if I would pick up their children, and it was not long before my vehicle was too small.

About that time, the school board asked if I would pick up other children outside the village. That is when I bought a large vehicle and travelled on Route 14 and Route 2. That was the first "school bus" in East Montpelier. I was paid \$1.00 per day for the two trips, a.m. and p.m., which was to cover gas, upkeep, and my fee.

When we bought the small farm on Towne Hill Road, the deed said 56 acres with house, barn, milk house, 12 cows, one bull, calves, pigs, and a homemade "doodlebug." After a couple of years we were notified by the Boston market that all farms were required to install a bulk tank for cooling milk. That took

out three of the five farms on Towne Hill Road, including ours. It was years later that we learned we had only 46 acres, and they didn't even lower our taxes. I then started work for the federal government in Montpelier and sold the school bus vehicle so it could continue to be used as the school bus.

There have been so many changes in East Montpelier including the building of our grammar school, and then U-32 High School shortly thereafter, which brought changes in the scenery along Towne Hill. Gallison Hill Road was carved out of the Miles farm, which was on the corner of Brazier Road and Towne Hill. The Cutler School on Schoolhouse Road was made into a home and the Wheeler Road area was sold for building lots. All of this happened before the *Signpost* was thought of. Many other neighborhoods have changed all over this town.

The *Signpost* has done a world of good for all of us. Where else can you turn for an update on just about anything a person living in town might want to know? I was a personal friend of Jean and Wes Cate (who were instrumental in getting the *Signpost* started) and know of the ideas they had, plus the energy and knowhow, to carry out their ideas. The *Signpost* is one of the greatest and most useful assets this town has.

## Town Offices

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Office Hours: Mon–Thurs 9 AM–5 PM

### Town Clerk

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eastmonttct@comcast.net

### Town Treasurer

Don Welch

eastmontr@comcast.net

### Town/Zoning Administrator

Bruce Johnson, eastmontadmin@comcast.net

Hours: Mon–Fri 9 AM–5 PM

### Fire Permits

EMFD 225-6247

### First Constable

Jon Boucher 917-4855

### Animal Control Officers

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Assistant: Amber Perry 498-5140

### Listers

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Ross Hazel, Chris Racanelli

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### Service Officer

Rachael Grossman 223-3177

### Selectboard

Seth Gardner, Chair

sethbgardner@hotmail.com

Carl Etnier

Gene Troia

Kimberly Swazey

Amy Willis

### Planning Commission

Julie Potter, Chair, 262-6119

### Development Review Board

Steve Kappel, Chair

sjkappel@gmail.com

### WCUUSD Board

East Montpelier Representatives:

Lindy Johnson, Flor Diaz Smith

### State Representative

Kimberly Jessup, 249-9306

jessupkimberly@gmail.com

## Progressive Development

Mark Cannella

We have lived in town for seven years. I am so impressed and enthused about the farm and forest character in East Montpelier and access to open space—both the public trail system and the informal trails that neighbors let us explore on skis. I also truly appreciate Morse Farm as a place to enjoy ice cream and see a family enterprise that continues to be active and vibrant.

Looking ahead, I do think we need to consider ways to develop more affordable housing and recruit young families to move into town. This may challenge some prior notions of land conservation but I think the two goals need to coexist. New people, new ideas, and new kids in our schools will be key to a vibrant future. I'd like to see East Montpelier initiate progressive development programs that embrace a mix of real estate, light commercial, and continued conservation goals. It is a great town to live in and we can be proud to invite more people to help grow our community for the next 30 years.

*The following is a portion of a poem Sylvia Tosi, Town Clerk, wrote for my retirement. The years at the town office were great. The change-over to computer systems made it challenging, but we got through it. It was a lot of hard work, but the people I worked with made it all worthwhile. It was a great pleasure to serve the people of East Montpelier.*

— Pauline Coburn

### For Paulie, Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer June 1984–2002

The early times—before computers—  
You agonized over those tax bills  
It's a wonder you stuck it out  
To give the townspeople, no doubt—  
No excuse to pay their dues.

The dogs papers were written by hand...  
Our fingers were stiffened by days end  
Back before we had that dog list program.

To continue o'er the years, votes were counted  
One by one, tallied and recorded...  
And then the vote tally machine was bought  
Each vote was automatically sorted...  
No "dimples"—no "chads" the votes were accounted.

The lessons learned about computers  
How it was that when we figured the program out  
That it had been programmed to make us call our server  
So we thought...  
It always made us so nervous.

But learning as we did—going to classes and seminars  
Taking on new programs over the years,  
Has brought the town forward in many ways.



*Paulie Coburn with framed poem  
Photo by Terry J. Allen*



## Pizza Delivery Re-Invented

What a great idea: a mobile pizza oven! Many of us have enjoyed pizza from Woodbelly Pizza—at the Farmer's Market, at their Barre Street summer location, or at a Woodbelly-catered event such as a wedding. As we munch delicious slices, we might not realize its East Montpelier connection. East Montpelier resident David Huck joined Woodbelly Pizza in 2012. In 2014, he led its transformation into an employee-owned business and is now a part-owner.

Woodbelly Pizza is built on ideals of organic and locally grown ingredients. Produce comes from Ananda Farms here in East Montpelier, Good Heart Farm (Worcester), and Provender Farm (Cabot). The premium cheeses are from Vermont, and the meat is locally pastured. Even the wheat is mostly sourced from Roger's Farmstead in Berlin and milled at Elmore Mountain Bakery.

David's interest in cooking began as a child growing up in California. As an Oberlin College student, he and a couple of friends started a CSA for artisan bread. They delivered 80–100 loaves each week—on bicycle! Not surprisingly, David was drawn to the vibrant, local food scene in Vermont, an environment that fed his love of creating simple and flavorful recipes. David's passion shines through when he says, "The challenge of literally building a kitchen on a mountain makes every trip special and lets us see a lot of corners and places in Vermont that you wouldn't otherwise visit. Ultimately, whether a mountain, barn,



or our backyard is the set-up site, creating something satisfying and nourishing is a huge part of the reward for me."

Besides its location at the Montpelier Farmer's Market, Woodbelly Pizza is available on Fridays and Sundays at the new Caledonia Spirits Distillery; they will continue to be there until November, serving a winter menu. David is happy to talk to you about pizza and building wood-fired ovens. He can be contacted at slice@woodbellypizza.com, or 595-9356.

—Rachael Grossman, former EME coordinator,  
lives on Brazier Rd. with her family

## Washington Central Unified Union School District Update

The East Montpelier Elementary School District is no more. But our new Washington Central Unified Union School District (WCUUSD) Board, responsible for pre-kindergarten through grade 12 education for the children of Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, and Worcester, has taken over the work of six individual boards and will focus on assuring all our students are provided with high quality and equitable opportunities for growth and learning. The new board is composed of two members from each of the five member towns. Initial members are: Vera Frazier and George Gross from Berlin; Scott Thompson and Dorothy Naylor from Calais; Lindy Johnson and Flor Diaz Smith from East Montpelier; Chris McVeigh and Marylynne Strachan from Middlesex; and Jaiel Pulskamp and Jonas Eno-Van Fleet from Worcester.

Your newly elected board has been busy getting our new district up and running. Our elected board officers are Scott Thompson, chair; Flor Diaz Smith, vice chair; and Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, clerk. As you all know, our combined budget passed in June, and with that milestone behind us, we have set to work on getting everything in place for schools to open on August 27.

We welcomed our new Interim Superintendent, Debra Taylor, at our July 15 retreat. We are excited to start this new journey

together and have had many conversations about our future. We have a solid foundation from the work we have been doing over the years, and at the same time, we are starting to look and talk about new opportunities. On August 1, we had a combined retreat with the professional leadership team, and we took time to get to know each other better and talk about how we want to re-write our story.

It is clear that we all have similar values and beliefs, and we will focus on collaboration to enhance learning for our students at all levels and to assure there are outstanding opportunities for all. As we start to work together with an eye on broadening our community engagement, long term planning, and educational and academic outcomes, we hope you will stay engaged in this very important work. We will be meeting the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Every first Wednesday, the meeting will take place at U-32 and on the third Wednesday, we will rotate through the elementary schools. Please check our calendar in the website. On September 4, we will meet at U-32 and on September 18 at East Montpelier Elementary School. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call any of your local representatives.

—Flor Diaz Smith is a long-time EMES board member and now vice chair of the WCUUSC board

## Paulie's Recipe

From the *Community Cookbook of the Friendly Circle, North Montpelier*

### Stuffed Peppers

6 green peppers  
½ cup English walnuts  
1 large onion  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/8 teaspoon pepper  
½ cup bread crumbs  
½ cup milk  
1 teaspoon melted fat

Select broad peppers that will stand on end and are easy to serve. Cut top from each pepper, discard seeds and parboil peppers 15 minutes. Stuff with filling mixed in order given above. Bake 20 minutes at 400 degrees, basting frequently with hot water.

Any leftover meat may be substituted for the nuts. Tomatoes and rice make an excellent filling.

Paulie's comment: The possibilities of making really interesting fillings are endless.

## Town Weathervane

### Milestones

#### Births

- Sebastian Patrick Feld, a son, born in May 2019 to Benjamin & Danielle Feld
- Maddox Oliver Miles, a son, born May 2019 to Bonnie Watson and Timothy Miles, Jr.
- Ava-Lynn Estelle Dodge, a daughter, born in July 2019 to Tiffany Lee Dodge

#### Deaths

- Robert Barney died in May 2019
- Ruth Watson, died in May 2019
- Dennis Hawkins, father of Nicolas, died in June 2019
- Timothy Carver, husband of Anne, died in July 2019
- Donald DeForge husband of Lily, died in July 2019
- Barbara Hutchins, longtime companion of Andrew Hutchins and mother of Logan Hutchins, died in July 2019

#### Land Transfers

- Transfers created for estate planning purposes are not included in this listing.*
- Estate of Carole DeMag to Kyle Leibold, a mobile home on Sandy Pines Rd
  - Sec. of Housing & Urban Development to Sara Luther, a mobile home on 1.57 acres on Pine Ridge Rd
  - Charles & Susan Grigg to Julie Henderson, a dwelling and 3 acres on Brazier Rd
  - Robin Biron to Brian & Pamela Pickel, 0.12 acre on East Hill Rd – boundary line adjustment
  - Brian & Pamela Pickel to Robin Biron, 0.12 acre on Clark Rd – boundary line adjustment
  - Benjamin & Danielle Feld to Gordon & Emily Gatewood, 7.03 acres and dwelling on Gray Rd
  - Ray & Courtney Stout to Casey Winterson & Jacob Newland, 1.26 acres and dwelling on US2
  - Jewel Love to Linda Janawicz, a mobile home on Mugford Rd

### Selectboard

#### June 3, 2019

##### Discussion items:

- Conversation with PC on zoning update
- Chapter one of draft Zoning Regulations
- Hazard Mitigation Plan development
- Topics for July joint meeting with Calais Board

##### Motions Passed:

- to adopt the Revolving Loan Fund Policies and Procedures, dated March 15, 2019
- to appoint Rebecca Schrader as the advisor to the SB on the revolving loan fund
- to authorize the town administrator to complete the standard grant agreement with VTrans for paving the first 1.83 miles of County Rd
- to appoint Darci Coleman-Graves, Paul Erlbaum, Lindy Johnson, Sue Racanelli, Sandal Cate, Kate Rader, and Jeanne Malachowski to the funding request study committee, and Steve Justis and Jennifer Boyer to the rural road vegetation assessments project advisory committee
- to approve access permit 19-023, for property at 170 Cherry Tree Hill Rd

#### June 17, 2019

##### Discussion items:

- Town Clerk Annual Report on records management and records retention
- Conversation with Town Health Officer Ginny Burley
- Delinquent Tax Collector Report
- Topics for July joint meeting with Calais Board
- Consideration of First Class Liquor License for Twin Valley Seniors, Inc.

##### Motions Passed:

- Motion of appreciation:  
Whereas Graham Streeter and his coterie of volunteers have collected and organized invaluable information about Cate Cemetery, and  
Whereas Mr. Streeter has worked with Dan Currier at CVRPC to create a map of the cemetery, and Whereas Mr. Streeter has

hereby taken an important step towards completing his Eagle Scout requirements,

Be it therefore resolved that the East Montpelier Selectboard, on behalf of the whole town, commands and thanks Mr. Streeter, Montpelier Boy Scout Troop #709, and all the others who worked to create this addition to the town's understanding of itself to approve the 2019 Warrant to Impound Unlicensed Dogs

- to assign the current FY19 budget surplus in the following manner:
- \$5,000 to be added to the funds set aside to cover the future costs of allowable leave reimbursements at the time of employee termination, and any audited fund balance to the capital reserve
- to authorize the town administrator to complete the contract amendment with Creative Visions LLC
- to appoint officers for the term July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 as detailed:

Rosie Laquerre as Town Clerk

Don Welch as Town Treasurer

Don Welch as Collector of Current Taxes

Denise Sparrow as Assistant Town Clerk

Denise Sparrow as Assistant Town Treasurer

Bruce Johnson as Zoning Administrator

Bruce Johnson as Collector of Delinquent Taxes

Gene Troia as Acting Zoning Administrator

Seth Gardner as Road Commissioner

Bruce Johnson as Road Commissioner

- to authorize the town to move forward with application 19-031 to the DRB
- to authorize the SB chair to sign a letter of support for the grant application regarding the village sidewalk project and to authorize the TA to submit the grant application
- to authorize the town administrator to execute the agreement with VTrans for a structures grant for the Morse Farm County Rd culvert
- that it is the intent of the town to participate in the FY20 Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program
- to approve access permits 19-024 and 19-025 with the noted conditions for property located at 145 Cummings Rd
- to implement the FY20 employee pay rates as proposed beginning July 1, 2019

## July 1, 2019

### Discussion items:

- Draft EM Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Conversation in PC on zoning update
- Conversation with Carolyn Shapiro, Town Representative on the Four Corners Schoolhouse Association Board
- Topics for July joint meeting with Calais Board
- 2019 Town Road and Bridge Standards proposed by VTrans
- Road condition concerns expressed by the public

## July 22, 2019 (Unapproved)

### Discussion items:

- Conversation with PC on zoning update
- East Montpelier Fire Department topics prior to August 8, 2010 joint meeting

### Motions Passed:

- to approve the draft East Montpelier Hazard Mitigation Plan
- to approve the resolution regarding the application for village center designation for the village of North Montpelier and to authorize the town administrator to complete the application process
- to adopt the Town Road and Bridge Standards of June 5, 2019
- to authorize the TA to complete the Better Roads Grant Agreement for Horn of the Moon Road Project
- to authorize the town administrator to submit curb cut application 19-036 to the SB
- to approve curb cut application 19-036
- to approve submission of the application to the Recreation Facilities Grant Program, to authorize the SB chair to sign the letter, and authorize the recreation board to submit the application
- to approve the WebGIS Support Contract with CAI Technologies
- to authorize the chair to sign the treasurer's financial management questionnaire
- to appoint Amber Perry assistant animal control officer

*Please visit the East Montpelier Town website for Planning Commission and Development Review Board minutes*

## U-32 School Board

### June 17, 2019 (Unapproved)

#### Discussion items:

- ALICE Training (public comment)
- Student renewable energy presentation
- Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements (PBGR)
- Basis for staffing decisions

#### Motions Passed:

- to accept the retirements, with thanks, for Judy Abbiati and Colleen Dunn
- to accept the resignation of Molly Butz
- to approve the hire of Charlotte Pitone
- to name the restored track after Mark Chaplin and Kathy Topping

## EMES School Board

### June 17, 2019 (Unapproved)

#### Motions Passed:

- to approve transfer of funds in excess of 2% of the June 30, 2019 total to the capital fund from fund balance

**Thank you, Signpost Supporter!**

Carolyn Brown

## Playful Pup

Dog Training



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[playfulpupdogtraining@gmail.com](mailto:playfulpupdogtraining@gmail.com)



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## CALENDAR

**Fri., Sept. 27,** 6:30 p.m. Chicken Pie and Concert at the Old Meeting House. Supper then 7:30 p.m. concert by Four Shillings Short, a Celtic World Music duo. Supper-only is \$15 adults/\$8 children under 12, or with the concert is \$22/\$8. Take-out available. For reservations, call 223-6934.  
**Sat. Sept. 28,** Noon & 6:30 p.m. Chicken Pie at the Old Meeting House. \$15 adults/\$8 children under 12. Take-out available. For reservations, call 223-6934.  
**Sat. Oct. 5,** Harvest Festival, a day of family fun capped off by Northstar Fireworks. East Montpelier Elementary School.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Mon. Sept. 2,** Labor Day, Town Office closed  
**Fri. Nov. 15,** Tax payments due  
**Thurs.-Fri. Nov. 28-29,** Thanksgiving Holiday, Town Office closed  
*The deadline for the next issue of the Signpost is October 1*

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	as needed	contact: blusig@aol.com / 229-5441
Development Review Board (DRB)	1st Tues. 7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) Board	3rd Mon. 5:30 p.m.	Elementary School
East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)	Every Tues. 7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
East Montpelier Historical Society	3rd Mon. 7:00/6:00 p.m.	Four Corners Schoolhouse/E. Calais
East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative	as needed	contact: rhazel@ezcloud.com
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association	2nd Wed. 7:00 p.m.	Four Corners Schoolhouse
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)	2nd Wed. 6:30 p.m.	Elementary School, Art Room
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs. 7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Recreation Board	2nd Mon. 7:15 p.m.	Elementary School
Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon. 6:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
U-32 School Board	1st Wed. 6:00 p.m.	U-32 School