

Love of Land and Children

by Rosie Laquerre

For Ron Koss, the road to East Montpelier began when he was a young man in his twenties, just after reading the book, *Living the Good Life – How to Live Sanelly and Simply in a Troubled World*, by Helen and Scott Nearing. He was so inspired by their teachings that he traveled across the country and settled in Plainfield. When the Bushey “back farm” in the Horn of the Moon area of East Montpelier came up for sale in 1978, Ron and his twin brother, Arnie, walked the land, talked to the owners, and felt a connection to it that convinced them to buy.

Ron met Carley Claghorn when they were both hired to work at a children’s school in Plainfield. Carley, who had grown up in central Massachusetts, followed one of her sisters to Plainfield, where Carley was planning to intern in home birthing. Ron and Carley married, built a home, started their family, and visited with their neighbors on Horn of the Moon and Long Meadow Brook—listening to their stories.

One neighbor, George Hull, remembered when, as a boy, he was asked to deliver milk from his family farm to the Civilian Conservation Corps workers who were building the Wrightsville Dam on the back side of the hill. The Hulls and Cotes remembered logging with horses in the woods by Long Meadow Brook. Phil and Roberta Bushey’s stories were of the land that was once their farm and the delight they took in it. For years after they sold the property to Ron and Carley, Phil Bushey hunted in the “back woods” with the blessings of the new owners. Carley noted, “They were Phil’s woods. He grew up there, and they were a part of him.” To this day, a walk in the woods may yield a relic of the old farm—a cow bell or the blade from a two-man crosscut saw.

The oral history allowed Ron and Carley to form a lasting connection with the property, as well as a sense of the place. They have both been active in advocating for their land and that of their neighbors—working with owners and neighbors to create conservation easements and restrictive covenants



photo by Terry Allen

Ron and Carly in a rare moment of relaxation.

to prevent clear cutting and cell tower development. Ron refers to the Hulls, Busheys, Cotes, and Lanes as the last of the generational “real” Vermonters. They formed a tight community in their neighborhood that still flourishes today.

Ron and Carley’s work lives have also shown their love for land and children. They worked together as directors of the Moorehaven Group Home in 1981. In 1984, they were selected to be the first directors of the Ronald McDonald house in Burlington when the facility began offering a “home away from home” for families who had children in treatment for serious illness at the UVM Medical Center. During the early 1980s, Carley was home with their boys, Gabriel and Aaron, but found time to work with seven

Koss/Claghorn, continued p. 10

TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

As seems to happen regularly (how do I manage to forget from year to year?), summer comes without any warning. I left for a visit to my children on May 5. It was still pretty chilly, and there was not one bud on any tree or shrub that looked willing to blossom anytime soon. When I returned to Vermont on May 15, it was summer—everything dressed in all shades of green and in full bloom. The snap peas I

planted, optimistically, on April 25 were more than eight inches tall and needed support.

The other thing I tend to forget (or repress) is how very brief summer is and how much I miss it when it's gone. So, I remind you, as I try to remember myself, to savor and enjoy this brief and beautiful time in this wonderful place.

—Edie Miller is a longtime Signpost volunteer.



photo by Patty Connor

photo by Terry Allen



Does Your House Have a Story? The Signpost Wants to Hear It

Each year, the September-October issue of the *Signpost* features a “theme”—a topic about which readers are asked to comment. In the past you have shared thoughts on your favorite hiking, biking, and outdoor places, the origin of your street names, wild animals who visit you, as well as many more topics. (See the *Signpost* archive online at emsignpost.com.)

This year we hope to hear about interesting (funny, eerie, odd, scary or any adjective you can think of) stories about your homes. Does your house have an interesting past, present, or maybe even an idea for an interesting future? Send 100-200 words about what makes your house interesting to Edie Miller at emillervt@comcast.net. The deadline is Monday, August 1, 2022.

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East Montpelier Signpost

PO Box 184
East Montpelier VT 05651

www.emSignpost.com

Signpost Archive
Business Supporters
Links to Other Town Information

Signpost Volunteers

Terry J. Allen
Design & Photography
229-0303 tallen@igc.org

Lyn Blackwell
Proofreader
229-9588 lyn.blackwell3@gmail.com

Jennifer Boyer
Webmaster
522-3841 vtpots@gmail.com

Alex Brown
Production, Mailing, Photography
223-0430 alexbrown802vt@gmail.com

Patty Connor
Layout & Design
279-1928 pattyconnor@gmail.com

Hilari Farrington
Features Co-editor
223-4039 benedictandhilari@gmail.com

Rachael Grossman
Business Manager
223-3177 garlicmountain@gmail.com

Rosie Laquerre
Town Records
778-0273 clerk@eastmontpeliervt.org

Edie Miller
Copy Coordinator
229-0677 Signposteam@comcast.net

Carolyn Pastore
Copy Editor
223-7463 cwpas44@yahoo.com

Barbara Ploof
Copy Editor
223-6934 Signpostbcp@hotmail.com

Kate Rader
Records Editor
229-4737 raderca2015@gmail.com

Mary Redmond
Copy Editor
229-0437 marycampbellvt@gmail.com

Merry Schmidt
Copy Editor
223-2550 merryschmidt@gmail.com

Rachel Senechal
Features Co-Editor
223-0539 Rachel.senechal@gmail.com

Michelle Singer
Managing Editor
595-9141 jmsinger98@hotmail.com

Ann Stanton
E.M. Eats Coordinator, Copy Editor
223-5321 profstanton@aol.com

Printed by L. Brown & Sons Printing 476-3164

Ellie May's Doggie Daycare

by Renee Kievit-Kylar

Greetings. My name is Ellie May, and I am an 80-pound Bernese Mountain Dog. I live with my family on US Rt. 2 across from Codling Road, but my favorite place to spend time is at Ellie May's Doggie Daycare, which luckily is attached to my house!

My mom and dad, Patti and Chris Morrison, opened the daycare in 2021. They worked hard to get things ready, visiting other doggie daycares to get ideas and renovating the space to make it work for my dog friends to come visit. The space used to be the showroom for Gallery of Cabinets, owned by my grandparents, Lawrie (whom I sadly never met) and Mary Morrison. My dad, Chris, grew up in our house, which my grandparents purchased in 1975. He worked at the cabinet shop for over 30 years. When my parents met and fell in love, my dad moved to Barre with my mom and raised their pups—I mean, children: Bobby, Morgan, and Brooke. After my grandfather passed away, my mom and dad moved into their house. My grandmother Mary lives very close by in Plainfield and babysits for me often.

At first, they used the old showroom for storage but kept thinking about what to do with the big space. They brought me home as a puppy (I was pretty cute!) about two weeks before everything shut down because of Covid. Both of my parents work full-time jobs but realized how much they enjoyed being with me when they had to work from home. And there were many people who got puppies while they were working from home and eventually had to go back to their offices. Soooo, they decided to start a doggie daycare! They felt so much better leaving me with my friends so they could go back to work!

Every day I have between 15 and 20 friends to play with, although I do have my best friends: Sterling (a Great Dane), Rayne, and Yukon (both huskies). We are the four Musketeers and love to tumble and rumble together. My favorite puppy is Meerah, also a Bernese Mountain Dog, so she looks like a mini-me (but is growing up fast)! Turk is another favorite puppy of mine that tends to follow me wherever I go. He thinks that I am his big sister. I have never been to human daycare, but I have overheard from

my mom that they modeled our doggie daycare after those. Lauren DeBarge is our best human; she runs the place. We know that she makes things fun and keeps us safe. We have a structured schedule including morning and afternoon activities, lunch, nap time, and individual time each day for those special pats and rubs. We play Ring Around the Rosie and other pre-school games, and we have wonderful toys and play structures in the yard. Because some of us are large, there is a separate place for small dogs and puppies.



Generally, we all get along pretty well. All new dogs go through an evaluation to see if they will fit in with the rest of the crowd. My mom says if they don't like me, they can't come! I am very attached to all of my friends, even though some only come a few days or hours a week while others are here every day. At the end of the day, we are a bunch of pooped pups! I crawl into bed and take a rest before dinner. Then I am ready for evening cuddles.

Of the few other doggie daycare places nearby, my parents are especially fond of the humans at Four Paws Inn in Barre. Since we do limited overnight boarding, we recommend parents use Four Paws Inn for sleepovers. My daycare has provided bed and breakfast, as we call it, for some of my friends, but that is not

our focus. We like being a family at the end of the day, and Lauren needs to go home and rest because we tire her out!

I have wondered how my mom, dad, and Lauren learned how to run such a fun place. I realize that they just try things out. If something works, great; if not, they change it. They also take suggestions from parents. Mom says they have learned A LOT since they opened the doggie daycare.

Right now, there is a six-month waiting list. If your human is looking for doggie daycare, they can fill out an application on our website at elliemaysdaycare.com.

Thanks for listening. Here's a slurp and cuddle for each of you!

—Renee Kievit-Kylar has lived with her husband, Doug, on Brazier Road for almost 40 years. She doesn't have a dog at the moment but loves dogs who are smart and sweet, like Ellie May.

Change is in the Air

This spring, we are seeing the kind of change that happens only every couple of decades. Town and Zoning Administrator Bruce Johnson, Treasurer Don Welch, and Municipal Assistant Denise Sparrow will all be retiring within the next few months. It's very much a changing of the guard.

Last July, after holding the job for ten years, Don Welch announced that he will retire as of August 2022. A committee of residents and town officials was appointed and began meeting in January to search for the next treasurer. From the pool of candidates, two skilled and talented people were recommended to the Selectboard.

When Bruce Johnson announced his resignation effective as of June 30, the Selectboard took another look at the treasurer candidate pool and agreed that those who had been recommended would be excellent replacements for both the town administrator and treasurer positions.

Gina Jenkins is a resident of Lyle Young Road and began training with Bruce on April 22. Michele Pallas of Braintree began working with Don on May 9. We are very fortunate to have this "overlap" time for our new staff to work with our seasoned veterans.

Denise Sparrow has graciously agreed to stay through August 12 to assist with the August primary election. It's



Gina Jenkins
Town Administrator



Michele Pallas
Town Treasurer

photos by Alex Brown

going to take an incredibly special person to fill those shoes!

While change can be disconcerting, townspeople should expect many things to remain the same. You can look forward to receiving the same great service you have come to expect. We will miss seeing the familiar faces we've come to know and trust. But rest assured, our new staff members are enthusiastic and excited to become part of our team.

—Rosie Laquerre is EM's town clerk and a Signpost volunteer.



Kenzie is East Montpelier's #001 Dog

He is a handsome 8-year-old Havanese and lives on Horn of the Moon Road with his keeper, Sue. Thanks to all who licensed their dogs by April 1, 2022.

Build Your Family Tree

Last March, East Montpelier Historical Society member Andy Christiansen presented a program on exploring family genealogy. The presentation, in PowerPoint format, provided information to anyone at any stage of research in an easy-to-use format.

To view Andy's presentation as well as others, go to EastMontpelierHistoricalSociety.org. On the home page, scroll down to March 21 Program Summary for the link to the genealogy program.

All East Montpelier Historical Society programs are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Sandal Cate at sandal.cate@gmail.com.

Town Offices

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651
Phone: 802-223-3313
Office Hours: Mon–Thurs 9 AM–5 PM
Fri 9 AM –12 PM

Town Clerk

Rosie Laquerre
clerk@eastmontpeliervt.org

Town Treasurer

Michele Pallas
treasurer@eastmontpeliervt.org

Town Administrator

Gina Jenkins
manager@eastmontpeliervt.org

Fire Permits

EMFD 225-6247

First Constable

Jon Boucher 917-4855

Animal Control Officers

Lead: Carl Etnier 552-4343
Assistant: Amber Perry 498-5140

Listers

Ross Hazel
Chris Racanelli
223-3313 x206,
listers@eastmontpeliervt.org

Health Officer

Ginny Burley 272-4045

Service Officer

Rachael Grossman 223-3177

Selectboard

Seth Gardner, Chair
sethbgardner@hotmail.com
Judith Dillon Carl Etnier
Jon Jewett Amy Willis

Planning Commission

Zach Sullivan, zsullivan@gmail.com

Development Review Board

Steve Kappel, Chair
sjkappel@gmail.com

WCUUSD Board

Flor Diaz Smith, fdiazsmith@u32.org
Lindy Johnson, lindyjvt@gmail.com

State Representative

Kimberly Jessup, 249-9306
jessupkimberly@gmail.com

Another Successful Year Greening Up



(pictured left to right) Chris Racanelli, Erin Borland, Paul Erlbaum, and Rob Chickering

Green Up Day was successful with neighbors picking up 2,240 pounds of trash and 136 tires. The day was sunny yet cool, and we showed the state of Vermont that we are active participants in keeping our town and state clean.

Foreman Guthrie Perry and the road crew brought in two big trucks the morning of May 7, and Principal Alicia Lyford allowed use of the East Montpelier Elementary School parking lot as the staging ground for hundreds of green bags of trash and tires. Town officials stopping by were

Selectboard member Carl Etnier, Town Moderator Michael Duane, and former Town Administrator Bruce Johnson.

Success comes from the joint efforts of all who take the time to clean up East Montpelier neighborhoods. Thanks to those individuals who drove their personal trucks and trailers to collect bags from the roads and to pick up large items. Volunteers at the collection site separated cans and bottles from trash, placed tires in the dump truck, recorded cleared areas and those who dropped off trash. Thanks to Ron Baker, Erin Borland, Rob Chickering, Robert Duncan, Paul Erlbaum, Doug Kievet-Kyler, Town Clerk Rosie Laquerre, Matt L., Susan McKinney, Ross Mroczek, Bob Onne, Justin Sayers, Ed Radzvilla, Nick Van Den Berg, and anybody whose name I may have missed. Special thanks to Renée Carpenter and Deb Fillion, who coordinated cleanup efforts in specific locations.

Helping nourish volunteers were Rachel Grossman and Sue Stephens, who baked delicious cookies, as well as Hunger Mountain Coop and Shaw's, who provided water, fruit, and granola bars.

Special thanks to Bragg Farm, Dudley's Store, East Montpelier Elementary School, East Montpelier Home Center, Fox Market, Morse Farm, North Country Federal Credit Union, and the Town Office for hanging posters at their facilities and distributing Green Up bags.

Finally, Karen Lieberman took the refundable bottles to Beverage Baron in Barre as a fundraiser for the U-32 Green Team's Pollinator Garden. And a tip of the hat to Rosie Laquerre, who followed behind Karen to provide assistance.

—Chris Racanelli is EM's longtime coordinator for Green Up Day.

Got Eggs? Two Young Entrepreneurs Do

by Ann Stanton

In spring, thoughts turn to eggs if you happen to be Ezra Chapin and Claire Phillips. Each separately had the same idea, did research, and enlisted the support of family and friends to start their own businesses.



photo by Ela Chapin

In May 2021, Ezra, (pictured left) now age 11, decided to raise chicks and sell eggs. He bought sixteen chicks from Tractor Supply and developed a customer base of five weekly customers. After wintering over, the hens now have an expanded yard; and the flock soon will expand with four baby chicks

who will eventually add blue eggs to the mix. Much of the earnings go to feed and supplies; any extra is his spending money. Why? Ezra explains that he loves being with animals and is business-minded. As a bonus, the chickens raise his spirits. He enjoys being self-reliant and providing his own family with eggs.

In March 2020, Claire, (pictured below) now age 14, was looking for different varieties of chickens to add to her family's flock of free-run chickens. There were so many, and she wanted to try them all. But to buy specialty chicks,



photo by Tracy Phillips

she had to order three of each. Her brilliant idea: order three chicks of 22 different varieties, keep one, and sell the others. That first year, she ordered 80 chicks. (This year, 100!) She designed a website for people to pre-order chicks. She also set up an egg business with about 20 customers, served by her personal flock. Why? She declares that she just loves chickens. She loves running a business and making new innovations each year. By July, she will stock a self-service egg stand at 2075 VT Rt. 14S. Check out her website roostngardensvt.com to see her amazing variety of chickens—she took all the pictures herself.



You can also purchase eggs at these East Montpelier businesses:

- Anderbell Acres, 1320 Horn of the Moon Road: \$5/dozen, jumbo eggs
- Center Farm, 1820 Center Rd: \$5/dozen, in cooler on porch
- Dave and Cait Petty, 315 Horn of the Moon Road: \$4/dozen
- Dennis Sherman, Rt. 14 South in the village: \$3/dozen, \$5/two dozen
- Premont Farm Eggs, 40 Lyle Haven Road: \$3/dozen, in fridge on porch

Paulie's Recipe Pineapple Delight

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large can of pineapple, drained (can be crushed or chunks)
- 1 1/2 cups cold cooked rice
- 1 pint of cream, whipped
- 1/2 cup sugar

DIRECTIONS

Mix pineapple and rice; fold in whipped cream. Sweeten to taste with about 1/2 cup sugar. Pour into cups and refrigerate until served. Serves six to eight.



Comment from Paulie Coburn: This is a simple and refreshing summer dessert. I remember my mother making it in the 1940s or 1950s.

From the North Montpelier Community Cookbook, assembled by the Friendly Circle of North Montpelier. Recipe submitted by M. Gibbs.

Funding Goal Reached for New Trail

The statewide Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA), which has worked closely with East Montpelier's trails organization for many years, will be enlarging and enhancing the trail system in our town this year and next. CVTA announced it has raised the \$200,000 needed to complete the Winooski Bridge Project which involves trails on both sides of the new Winooski Bridge built last summer. In all, the trail will go from the existing Montpelier Bike Path at Gallison Hill Road in Montpelier, up to U-32 School, over the Winooski Bridge and upstream along the Winooski River, finally cutting cross country to join the existing rail trail at VT Rt. 14.

Grants from the Northern Borders Regional Commission, the State of Vermont, and private donors will "improve trail accessibility for this generation and generations to come, to help ensure a healthy economic recovery from the Covid-19 crisis, with development rooted in environmental quality," according to the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation description of the grants made for this project.

Summary of Upcoming Cross Vermont Trail Project Construction Schedule

- The Winooski Bridge and the trail on either side of it, out to the new US Rt. 2 trailhead, will open late spring 2022.
- Side trails connecting to U-32 and providing access along the river and a new trailhead at Gallison Hill Road will open later in 2022.
- The rest of the trail will be built across East Montpelier in 2023, connecting to VT Rt. 14 where the existing trail begins on the old railbed.

Volunteer Opportunities

Though much of the work will be done with mechanized earth moving equipment, there will be opportunities for volunteers to contribute to the project, including building wooden bridges and other basic carpentry projects. Avid outdoors people can find a project map and volunteer opportunities at crossvermont.org. The trail will be built using standards that make it accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

The Winooski Bridge Project will further CVTA's mission to create multi-use trails throughout Vermont, accessible and inviting for all, that provide opportunities for healthy outdoor activities and permanent preservation of our local, natural world. For more information, contact Greg Western, Executive Director CVTA, at greg@crossvermont.org.

How Can It Be?

by Jo Bower

How can it be?

That my soul sinks into
the hollows of this place
as if it has always habited here...

How can it be?

That I so easily add layers of living
to accommodate the suddenly
shifting seasons
after a lifetime of flat city dwelling...

How can it be?

That my feet find purchase
on pebbly, worn shores
where wild birds and bears
come to breed and feed...

How can it be?

That words born in this space
spring and sprout with wild abandon
years after I thought the writer's
muse had gone...

How can it be?

That after years of
moving through too many spaces
carrying the concrete weight
of yearning for a different life
that I find myself here, in the place
I was always meant to be...

How can it be?

—Jo Bower has lived in East Montpelier since October 2020. This poem is an inquiry into the unexpected convergence of events that led her to leave familiar routines in Massachusetts to begin a life of writing and other adventures in Vermont.

TOWN WEATHERVANE

MARRIAGES

- Margaret Jay and Clifton King, April
- Jeffrey Savage and Jessica Manning, May

DEATHS—survivors living in East Montpelier are listed when known

- Anthony Biron, husband of Pam, brother of Michelle Harper, and uncle to Angela and Celine Biron, April
- Elizabeth Brown, April
- Patricia Renzello, grandmother of Quinn McDonagh, April

LAND TRANSFERS

Transfers relative to estate planning or corrective deeds are not included in this listing. For further info on land transactions, please contact the Town Clerk.

- Kevin & Lori Bailey to Michael Baril, 1.58 acres of open land on US2
- Cummings Farm LLC to Susan Ritz & Ethan Atkin, 3.62 acres on Cummings Rd
- Trees-ah Elder to Jessica Novick, 1.2 acres and camp on Dodge Rd
- The Hangar Building LLC to Rubin Bennett & Shaline Kirkpatrick, 0.70 acres (boundary adjustment)
- Rubin Bennett & Shaline Kirkpatrick, 1.88 acres to The Hangar Building LLC (boundary adjustment)
- Dale Lafirira, et.al. to Regan Howard, 0.27 acre & dwelling on Carleton Blvd
- Jason Lawrence to Fox Market LLC, 0.56 acres and commercial building on US2
- Kyle Liebold to Raylene Meunier, a mobile home on Sandy Pines Rd
- Ellen Leonard to Cherry Tree Hill Co-Housing Community, interest in property
- Mikeljon Mascitti to Cross Vermont Trail Association, easement on VT14S
- Margaret McCoy to Patrick McCoy, 7.51 acres on Bliss Rd
- Patrick McCoy to Margaret McCoy, 7.55 acres on Bliss Rd
- Michael Mislak to Amanda Mislak, 10.11 acres on Jourdan Rd
- Michael Morse to Janice Hess, a mobile home on Sandy Pines Rd
- Brian & Kristin Preston to Joe Cottrell, III and Christina Keelan, 11.40 acres & dwelling on Quaker Rd

- US Bank National Association to Marc Amato, 2.0 acres & dwelling on Haggett Rd

The following are excerpts from minutes of EM's governing boards. Complete minutes are on the town and school websites. All meetings were held in person with a remote participation option using the Zoom conferencing platform.

SELECTBOARD

April 4, 2022 Motions Passed

- to not apply complete streets principles to the County Rd paving project because the cost is disproportionate to probable use
- to adopt the 2022 East Montpelier Local Emergency Management Plan and authorize TA Johnson and Chair Gardner to sign the associated municipal adoption form
- to appoint: Nora Duane to the Conservation Fund Advisory Committee for a three-year term ending March 2025; Tim Lamson to the Cemetery Committee for a one-year term ending March 2023; and, Tom Fisher as the town's representative to the CVFiber Governing Board for a one-year term ending April 30, 2023

April 18, 2022

Motion Passed

- to move that the Town of East Montpelier make the one-time irrevocable decision to elect the "Standard Allowance" approach for the town's ARPA award in the amount of \$762,560.33
- to vote "yes" on the proposed [WEC] bylaw amendment, to vote for WEC board candidates Steven Farnham and Olivia Campbell Anderson, and to authorize TA Johnson to cast the town's ballot for the 2022 WEC Annual Meeting
- to approve the renewal of the NEMRC annual disaster recovery contract at a cost of \$778.99
- to approve the rbTechnologies services agreement; to authorize TA Johnson to sign the agreement on behalf of the town
- to find that due to unusual circumstances a second curb cut for the 75 Fair Rd property is appropriate, to

approve curb cut applications 22-013 [375 Old Trail Rd], 22-016 [75 Fair Rd], and 22-018 [Revised Coburn Rd Curb Cuts for Orchard Valley Waldorf School] as presented, and to authorize Chair Gardner to sign the permits on behalf of the board

- to appoint Rebecca Schrader as the Revolving Loan Fund advisor for a term ending March 2023
- to increase the annual salary of Town Clerk Rosie Laquerre to \$62,000, to increase vacation leave benefit to 120 hours per year, effective immediately
- to confirm the job offer to Gina Jenkins as the East Montpelier town administrator, annual salary of \$80,000

April 20, 2022

Motions Passed

- to enter executive session at 7:35 pm to discuss personnel matters; exited at 7:44
- to confirm the job offer to Michele Pallas as the East Montpelier treasurer/business manager, annual salary of \$68,000

May 2, 2022

Motions Passed

- to contribute \$133,333 to the purchase of the new fire engine when the chassis is delivered
- to authorize EMFD to use up to \$250,000 of the EMFD capital reserve fund for purchase of fire engine
- to grant permission to EMFD to use up to \$13,830, the total remaining ESF Bond Remainder Fund for the paving and lighting projects

May 16, 2022 (U)

Motions Passed

- to adopt the East Montpelier Recreation Board Social Media Rules & Guidelines as presented
- to appoint Michele Pallas the Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term ending June 30, 2022
- to approve Access Permit 22-021, New Curb Cut on Doner Rd., conditional on permit being signed by EM Road Foreman Guthrie Perry
- to eliminate the stipend approved at the May 2, 2022 Selectboard meeting and allocate the current Green Up Day budget for other purposes to support the event.

TOWN WEATHERVANE

- to approve use of EM trails on town land for MAMBA bike event
- to appoint: Spencer Hardy, Lead Representative to CVRPC; Frank Pratt, Transportation Advisory Committee Rep; Marshall Cottrell, Alternate Rep to CVFiber; and Sarah Kinter, Ginny Callan, Paul Erlbaum, Kate Rader, and Lindy Johnson to the Funding Request Study Committee
- to approve pay rate of \$20/hour for current and outgoing minutes taker, Kristi Flynn
- to enter executive session at 8:20 pm to discuss potential issuance of Notice of Non-renewal for EMFD service agreement, and personnel members; the Board exited executive session at 9:05

May 23, 2022 (U)

Motions Passed

- to approve the revised quote for the 2022 Dodge Ram and approve a special warrant to cut a check up to \$51,953 for the purchase
- to enter executive session at 8:27 pm to discuss zoning administrator position, and exited at 8:33
- to approve Chair Gardner to sign letter addressed to EMFD Chief Larry Brown

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

MAY 3, 2022

Motions Passed

- to approve Application #22-015 as submitted, [submitted by Shawn Dion, to add a commercial heavy equipment sales use to the existing residential use of the parcel located at 75 Fair Rd]
- to approve Application #22-019 as proposed, [submitted by Land Care Agricultural Services LLC, to construct a 30' x 60' hoop barn for materials storage and a 30' x 50' structure for equipment storage on Land Care's property located at 2368 Towne Hill Rd]
- to approve Application #22-012 as presented, [submitted by Washington Central Unified Union School District to construct two 27' x 6' dugouts and install three scoreboards on the U-32 Jr/Sr High School grounds located at 930 Gallison Hill Rd]
- to approve Application #22-017 as submitted, [submitted by Orchard Valley Waldorf School, to construct a

24' x 24' barn plus parking, traffic flow, pedestrian access and other improvements at the school's property located at 2290 VT14N]

WCUUSD

APRIL 6, 2022

Motions Passed

- to allocate \$174,259 additional capital reserve funds for the completion of 2022 WCUUSD Combined Projects
- to award the 2022 WCUUSD Combined Project contract to Farrington Construction, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$600,949
- to approve the new teacher nomination for Lauralee Curavoo
- to accept resignations for: Charlotte Pitone, Brennan Lynch, Christine Hertz-Hausman, and Andrea Dobson
- to approve the long-term substitute Susan Pryce, 2021-2022 school year

April 27, 2022

Motions Passed

- to enter executive session at 5:38 pm for the purpose of reviewing attorney-client privileged documents received from the District's legal counsel, and include Mark Kline, Michelle Ksepka, and Jen Miller-Arsenault; exited at 6:07
- to determine that premature public knowledge regarding attorney-client privileged documents received from the District's legal counsel would clearly place the District at a substantial disadvantage
- to accept the application to raise the Pride flag and fly it for the time set forth in our flag raising policy
- to enter executive session at 7:44 pm for the purpose of deliberation; exited at 7:57
- to appoint Eric Anderson to the East Montpelier position on the WCUUSD Board
- to amend the policy B5 [Prevention of Employee Harassment], under "Training," to remove the word "sexual" before "harassment policies and procedures."
- to adopt Policy C4: English Learners
- to approve new teachers for 22-23 school year: Jennifer Bradley, Skylar

Washburn, Matthew Rackliff, Lauren Kiessling

- to approve a change in FTE: Nicolle Schaeffer – U-32 Social Studies – reduced to 0.6 FTE
- to approve the job description for RISE Coordinator

May 4, 2022

Motions Passed

- to accept the resignations of: Caitlin Morgan, Danielle Jesmonth, David Powelson, Katherine Staley, Justin Liechty
- to approve long term substitute appointment for 2021-22 school year, for Honi Bean-Barret

May 18, 2022

Motions Passed

- to approve awarding the bid for network switches to Ormsby's Computers and authorize the use of up to \$103,232 of funds reserved for technology hardware for the purchase of network switches
- to award the bid for replacement windows at U-32 to Portland Glass for an amount not to exceed \$24,015
- to authorize the Superintendent to purchase a John Deere tractor and UTV from United Ag and Turf for an amount not to exceed \$68,999 after allowance for the trade in of tractor, UTV and attachments
- to direct the financial team to develop a scope of work roughly totaling \$2,288,194 for 2023-24 capital projects
- to adopt Policy C7, Student Attendance
- to approve the following new hires: Shannon Miller, Berlin Elementary teacher (3/4); Veronica Eldred, Rumney Memorial K-6 classroom teacher; Julie Marie Bristol, Berlin/Calais special education teacher; David Kirk II, music teacher Berlin/Calais; Anthony Snow, U-32 RISE coordinator; Heidi Schmidt, Berlin/Calais speech language pathologist
- to accept the following resignations: Brian Flynn, Amy Accles, Lisa Hanna, William Pauley, Erik Bennett, Holly Carroll, Ben Heintz, Skylar Washburn

other families to create what we now know as the Children's Garden Waldorf school in Montpelier. Carley and Ron have also worked with the Orchard Valley School in East Montpelier, where Ron served on the board of directors for many years.

Ron and his brother, Arnie, both lifelong entrepreneurs, built what became the first organic baby food manufacturer in the United States. The mission of Earth's Best was to produce foods that were wholesome and nourishing for babies while promoting environmental responsibility. It was an incredible uphill battle producing and marketing an organic baby food at a time when corporate giants like Gerber, Beechnut, and Heinz were the only other names on grocery store shelves. In 1987, organic wasn't a concept that had yet caught on with the mainstream American family; but perseverance paid off, and the brand lives on today—now owned by The Hain Celestial Group.

Since Earth's Best, Ron has kept busy creating other food innovations and consulting with other entrepreneurial businesses. He is a founding board member of the Global Health Media Project, whose mission is "to improve healthcare and health outcomes, especially in low-resource

settings." In 2018, Ron and Arnie Koss were inducted into the 2018 New Hope Network's Hall of Legends as pioneers in the natural and organic foods industry for their work with Earth's Best.

As their boys grew older, Carley went to nursing school and graduated at the age of 50. Since then, and until mid-April of this year, she has worked at Copley's birthing center, caring for women and their babies as they begin their life journeys. It's certainly been an exciting and full life for the Koss-Claghorn family, but there is always more work to do. Carley is writing a conservation grant for their land to stop soil erosion and discharge on the deteriorating logging roads in the area, slow the invasive species that are spreading, and increase songbird habitat. As for Ron, he recently published the book, *Parallel: A Global Warming Economic and Activist Paradigm*. Be sure to ask him about it the next time you see him at the Co-op.

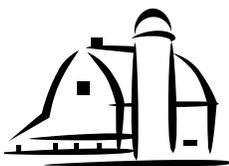
—Rosie Laquerre has been EM's town clerk since 2017 and is a Signpost volunteer. She lives in Berlin with her son and favorite feline. She is an avid reader who enjoys meeting people, crafting, and learning new things.

Twin Valley Senior Center is Open

Twin Valley Senior Center welcomes all to come for noon-time meals Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. It's a great way to get out and socialize. We continue to implement safe Covid protocols for all. In addition to meals, we offer monthly blood pressure and foot clinics. We also have a variety of classes: Bone Builders, Fall Prevention, Chair yoga, Tai Chi, and Art Group. There is often a cribbage game going and even jigsaw puzzles to work on.

TVSC is in need of in-house volunteers: kitchen help to heat up and serve the noon-time meals, and hosts to come socialize with community members. This involves only four hours of your time on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. Please give TVSC as much of your time as your schedule allows—once a month, once a week, or more if you can.

Soon we will have a new website, but until then, come check us out! Stop by any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. If you have questions, please contact Gene Troia, Executive Director, at (802) 223-3322.



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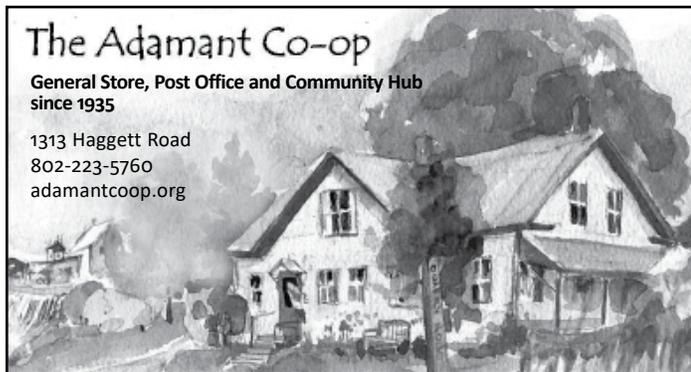
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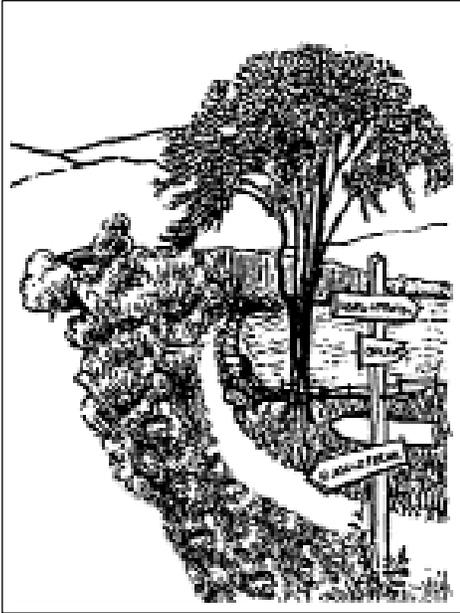
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IMPORTANT DATES

Mon. July 4, Independence Day, Town Office closed

Mon. July 18, 6 pm **Historical Society Annual Croquet Game & Ice Cream Social**, at the home of Teresa Doyle & Chris Reed at 1795 Rt. 14. Bring a lawn chair. Masks optional. Will be cancelled if rain is threatened. Contact Sandal Cate for information at sandal.cate@gmail.com

Tues. Aug 9, 7 am - 7 pm Vermont Primary Election, EMES

Fri. Aug 12, 12 pm Deadline for petitions to run as an Independent Justice of the Peace

Mon. Aug 15, 6 pm Meeting of East Montpelier and Calais Historical Society; program TBD

SUBMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER SIGNPOST DUE: AUGUST 1, 2022

(Remember to tell us about your house...see page 2)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee
 Development Review Board (DRB)
 East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)
 Four Corners Schoolhouse Assn
 Planning Commission (PC)
 Recreation Board
 Selectboard
 WCUUSD Board Meeting
 East Montpelier Historical Society

as needed
 1st Tues. 7 pm
 every Tues. 7 pm
 2nd Wed. 7 pm
 1st & 3rd Thurs. 7 pm
 2nd Mon. 7:15 pm
 1st & 3rd Mon. 6:30 pm
 3rd Wed. 5:30 pm
 TBD

contact: blusig@aol.com / 229-5441
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 EMFD Community Room
 Four Corners Schoolhouse
 Town Office Building
 Elementary School
 Town Office Building
 one of the district elementary schools
 Four Corners Schoolhouse/E. Calais