

Stories of House and Home

Traditionally, the September/October Signpost features townspeople sharing their thoughts. This time, given how much time we've all spent at home during the past 2 and a half years of the pandemic, we asked you to share stories about these important places that have provided not only shelter, but have functioned as our places of work, school, recreation, and outlets for creativity.

Center Road Saltbox

by Carroll Witham



The house that I grew up in (I now live down the road) on the corner of Bliss and Center Roads is probably the only old saltbox-style house in East Montpelier. The rumor is that it was once part of the Parley Davis house and was moved across the road to its present location, but I

don't know if that's true.

When my parents, Helen and Carroll Witham Sr., bought the house in 1948, it had a big porch with columns across the front. There was also a large barn next to it on the side facing Bliss Road. This was taken down because it was in disrepair. The porch was removed by the Pennimans, who bought the house from my parents. When I lived there, we had running water from a spring, but when the spring went dry in the summer, we had to use the three-holer in the back shed. We, and a lot of other people in the Center, had to get water in milk cans from a large spring on Bliss Road. The spring house is still there—a little way down Bliss Road on the left. The interior of the house has been done over a few times, and a deck has been added on the east side.

The House That Moved

By Tom McMurdo



I tell people who live in the area that I “live in the house that was moved.” It is memorable for those who lived in East Montpelier Center at the time. In fact, in 2010, there was an article in this publication about it. The short version is that the previous owner found that the basement kept flooding, so they moved the house onto a new foundation about a hundred yards down the road.

It is unusual to find a poured concrete basement in an early 1800s house. For us, though, it is the best of both worlds. Of course, like any older house, improvements often have special considerations and almost always prove to be complicated. Despite that, we have managed to make several major improvements and some smaller ones: the back deck was rebuilt and screened in, a second bathroom was added upstairs, and a new roof was installed.

Any old house is a project, but the details and history of the house make it special. We are doing our best to make sure this house is around for at least another 175 years.

Home Stories, continued p. 2

Season of Change

A new season is upon us. With nods to super-hot August days and moderate drought, summer's delights captured us again. The glories of living surrounded by natural beauty and experiencing long, serene twilights never get old. Now we move into late summer days, fall colors, and the rush of activity marking the new school year. Much is familiar—we've been here before, after all. But let's look back briefly to celebrate and be grateful for what, along with summer nights, has gone by. We bid goodbye to a talented team in the Town Hall: Bruce Johnson, town administrator and zoning administrator, Don Welch, town treasurer, and Town Assistant Denise Sparrow who retired this summer. We're grateful for their long and faithful service and are

happy to welcome their replacements: Gina Jenkins as town administrator, Tyler Brown as zoning administrator, and Michele Pallas, as treasurer.

The *Signpost* is also experiencing change. Our general manager, Michelle Singer, is taking a well-deserved sabbatical. I am filling her considerable shoes with the able backing of our volunteer crew of writers, editors, and layout duo. This month, you, our readers, are doing most of the writing. For this issue, we asked for stories about people's homes and were fascinated by the variety of responses. We know you will be, too. Enjoy!

—Ann Stanton is a longtime *Signpost* volunteer.

Dreamed, Drafted & Built

By Michelle Harper



What is unique and beloved about our timber frame home is that we designed it, created the materials, and built it ourselves. What started as a dream

drawn on graph paper with a triangular ruler was brought to life by my incredibly talented husband, Andy. He drafted the plans, found the logs, hired Fontaine's Sawmill to mill to the correct dimensions, and then cut the boards in our Winterwood Timber Frames shop. When we moved in, we didn't have any walls, doors or even running water! We are proud that we did most of the work ourselves, much of it on weekends. It's been our labor of love for 11 years.

Fox Run Farm

By Sandal & Paul Cate

How does one build a log home by hand? For starters, we built a log sugarhouse as a "practice piece." It still functions well at Fox Run Farm where we reside as neighbors to our son and his family. My husband, Paul, is trained and experienced in forestry. In early 1980, he wanted to build a cedar-log house. Using a guide to working with logs the Scandinavian way, we planned and built—with help from family and friends—a ranch-style house, which we occupied by 1983. Each log was "cut to fit" by hand, providing a draft-free set of walls done as "chinkless construction." Much of the interior wood was provided by Paul; cabinets, doors, floors, and finish work were created with the help of other carpenters. Our boys were raised working with trees and living with wood. We enjoy the serenity of living surrounded by woods and the conviviality of living in East Montpelier.

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Mystery Behind the Vines

by Andy Christiansen



A century ago, a little boy rode with his parents past a decrepit, woodbine-covered farmhouse. It was a scary place, and old man Hammett who lived there had a scary face, disfigured by cancer. That little boy, my father—Stanley Christiansen—vowed never to live in such a place. My grandfather bought that farm from Olga Hammett in 1939. Times were hard, and he could only afford half of it, so, he struck an agreement with Bill Lapointe to fix up the place while Bill lived on the premises. Then he paid the remainder of the roughly \$3,000 he still owed the following year.

The vines were pulled down, revealing a solid house built in the late 1790s by Barnabas Hammett (1742-1824). Perhaps to compete with neighbor Nathaniel Davis, and also create a performing space, a new section was attached to the front in the 1840s. The addition had crown molding over windows and doors, unlike the simpler design in the old part of the house.

In the last 230 years, the house has been owned by just two families: the Hammetts and the Christiansens. And my father? He grew to love his home behind the vines.

The Old Hale Place

By Steve Kappel



I bought “the old Hale place” on North Street in 1985 and have been working on it ever since. Years ago, as I was hanging clapboards, a station wagon pulled up and an older man stepped out. After watching me for a while, he said “Don’t mean to be nosy or nothing, but I was born here—just wanted to see what you were doing.” I invited him to stick around and, perhaps, answer some of my questions about the history of the place. Probably the thing I puzzled over the most was a built-up girder that supported the roof of the three-car shed. It was made of what I thought were 2x6s, but every board had regular rust streaks across it, every eight inches or so.

“Well,” he said, “you know the penstock brings water from Molly’s Falls Pond to the generating station in Marshfield?” I remembered that before it was replaced with a steel pipe several years ago, it was made of wood boards that ran the long way, with steel bands holding the wood together, kind of like a very long barrel. “When it was rebuilt back in the fifties,” he continued, “my dad and I salvaged many of the boards from the old one.”

Yep, that’s what the boards were. The final clue was that each of the boards was slightly beveled. When I completely rebuilt the shed in 2003, I was able to reuse some of the old boards. A little more history for the place.

Hippie Cabin Transformed

By Ellen Knoedler & Michael Duane

It is fair to say that the house we now live in looks completely different from the house built in 1977. The original house was a two-story hippie cabin built on nine wooden posts—no basement and very little insulation. An opening in the ceiling led to a one-room second story. An outhouse, which still stands today, was out back. It was built on a 38-acre wood lot by Harris and Ellie Tobias, who lived here with their three children. They were the owners of Earth Artisan, a natural food store in Plainfield. As the story goes, the family was in need of more room so they took a chainsaw to a wall, opened it up, and built a two-story addition with two bedrooms and two bathrooms on a drafty, fieldstone foundation with a dirt floor. It is also important to note that nothing was square or plumb. Being salvagers, the Tobiases created living room walls that are warm cherry wood from elevator shafts in NYC; hewn wood beams in the kitchen from the land; and a walnut staircase from a building in Montpelier—or so the story goes.

In 1985, the Tobiases wanted to return to Long Island to open an electronic toy store. When the house came up for sale, we jumped on it. Fortuitously, we had once been to the house for a potluck and fell in love with it, quirks and all. Since then, we have added more rooms, put in proper foundations, and beat back the woods that completely enshrouded the house. From the outside, the house looks very different. Once inside, though, the warm cherry walls, the beautiful pine and maple floors, the beams in the kitchen, the old walnut staircase, and the rooms out of square take us back to its humble beginnings; and we fall in love with it all over again.

Home Stories, continued p. 4

Old Meeting House Parish House

By Barbara Ploof



The Parish House next to the Old Meeting House was transformed into the current building 21 years ago. When the old building was taken down, it was discovered that at one time it had been two houses moved together to make one. One section was used as a kitchen, office, storage room, two-holer, and a shed. The other was one big room with a tiny bedroom above. The cobbled-together dwelling

became the Sunday School Building when it was purchased by the East Montpelier Union Sunday School in 1924. Though the church did not often hold services at the time, the Sunday School met regularly. In the 1960s, when the church became more active, it was renovated to create a pleasant community room. The ceiling was raised in the big room and pine paneling from the Brazier property covered the walls. A serving window was opened between that room and the kitchen, and a bathroom was added. The door that had faced the street was moved to the back, so that no one would step out of it and into on-coming traffic. (There had been a near accident prior to this change.) Later, yet another kitchen renovation took place to remove the wood stove and install electric ones, as well as to create counter space for chicken pie suppers. In 2001, the Old Meeting House Sunday School outgrew that building. It was rebuilt and enlarged with a useable second story. Only the framing and the birch floor in one room were preserved.

Forever Home

By Edie Miller

We were both frustrated as we drove along Murray Road from Towne Hill to its intersection with Bliss—a route unfamiliar to us. We had been looking for a house in East Montpelier for over two years, and not only was there little on the market, nothing seemed quite right for our family. We emerged from a heavily wooded area as we approached Bliss, and after having seen no houses for a long stretch, suddenly one appeared. “Now why can’t we find a house like that?” I grumbled to my equally unhappy spouse. It was just the type of lived-in, cape-style house we liked—with a great view out the front window.

Not one to leave stones unturned, Marty found out who owned the house, and to his pleasant surprise, he was acquainted with one of them. More importantly, the owners were of retirement age. To make a short story even shorter, we were invited to see the inside of the house. We loved it. The owners set a price which, from all our house-hunting experience, we knew was reasonable. We met the price, and within a short time were enjoying what became our “forever” home—which is still the family homestead 47 years later.

The Butler Farmhouses

By Gary Butler, as told to Barbara Ploof



Behind and to the right of the white clapboard house where Gary Butler lives, is a smaller brown shingled house. The smaller house used to be located where the white one is today. In 1871 it was moved by horses to its current location and set on piers. The vacated cellar hole was then used for the current house.

The house was built in 1803 by Nathaniel Ormsbee and initiated the settlement of the area. Nathaniel was the triple-great grandfather of Gary. The original house had plank walls, and the earliest part of it was a square; but then an addition turned it into a typical cape-style house. Gary and his father took down several walls to make it a two-room workshop. The “new” house is larger—eight rooms downstairs and five up. It has lovely views of pastures and mountains with easy access to the barns.

Home Stories, continued p. 6

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jessupkimberly@gmail.com

What Is a JP?

by Rosie Laquerre

Justices of the peace (JPs) are elected every two years during the general election in November. East Montpelier has ten elected JPs. They are nominated by their political caucus or can run as members of the Independent Party. There must be JPs of at least two parties so that certain election tasks can be performed without bias.

They have mandatory duties, including:

- serving as election officials for all town elections
- acting as a member of the Board of Civil Authority
- delivering absentee ballots to voters at election time, if needed
- JPs sit as members of the town's Board of Tax Abatement and Board of Tax Appeals.

They may also, at their discretion:

- solemnize marriages in Vermont
- administer oaths and/or serve as a notary public (after completing online application to become a notary public)
- serve as magistrate when commissioned by the Supreme Court.

As you can imagine, becoming a Justice of the Peace can be a fulfilling and interesting way to serve your community. November candidates include:

Janice “Jan” Aldrich (I)	Edith “Edie” Miller (I)
Virginia “Ginny” Burley (I)	Kate Phillips (D)
Edward “Ed” Deegan (D)	Rebecca “Becky” Reed (D)
Richard “Jez” Harrington (I)	Elise Thorsen (D)
Malinda “Lindy” Johnson (I)	Jennifer Zollner (D)

(D) Democratic (I) Independent (R) Republican

There is currently no active Republican caucus in East Montpelier

Roadside Planting Program

The town's Resilient Roads Committee was formed in 2017 to work with the Urban & Community Forestry Program on developing a vision and identifying options for future management of vegetation along our backroads. Our first action was the drafting of Rural Road Resilient Right-of-Ways Vegetation Assessment, which is available on our town website. One of its recommendations is to enhance or restore roadside vegetation by planting trees and shrubs. Emerald ash borer concerns sidelined our follow-up on that recommendation, but we are now reaching out to East Montpelierites to gauge interest in roadside planting. In particular, we plan to establish a cost-share program for buying and planting trees and shrubs along roads where there would be aesthetic, shade, habitat, and/or water quality benefits.

Under a grant received through the Urban & Community Forestry Program last year, we planted sugar maples in East Montpelier Center within or just outside the Center Road right-of-way on several properties. This was a great pilot project for the town, as many property owners actively participated in the work. In addition, the project included removal of invasive plants, pruning, and thinning in existing hedgerows.

The committee would like to hear your opinion on whether the town should set up a cost-share planting program. Send Jeff Cueto your thoughts at ompompanoo@aol.com.

—Jeff Cueto is chair of East Montpelier's Resilient Roads Committee

The “Lovely” House

by Hilari Farrington & Benedict Koehler

In 1990, the small house had only been on the market for a week when our real estate agent sent us over to have a look. We had been searching for a house in the U-32 school district for a year and a half, but our modest combined income had limited our choices. This house, designed and built by Ray and Lou Lovely in the early 80s, was in our price range, and it had almost everything we’d been looking for. Ray and Lou showed us the property, where we met their old ginger cat, Apricot. With an impending move to Washington State to be with their son, the Lovelys told us that they didn’t plan to bring

Apricot along. We made an offer, slightly lower than the asking price, but added that we would take care of Apricot for the rest of his natural life. The Lovelys declined to come down on the price but instead offered to finance the mortgage themselves at a friendlier rate than the bank offered us. A deal was made setting in motion a lively 20-year long correspondence.

Our mortgage payment always went with a letter of East Montpelier news, and the Lovelys reciprocated with news of Port Angeles and their many volunteer activities. Apricot, the cat who helped us find our home, lived to the ripe old age of 20.

Rich’s Hollow Tavern

by Erik Esselstyn

In the late 1780s, Samuel Rich, a carpenter with his tools on his back, walked to the tiny settlement of North Montpelier to seek his fortune. Within a decade, he had married the daughter of a prominent North Montpelier family, established two sawmills, a grist mill, a brickyard, and a still, plus a house and barn for his growing family. Overlooking the village, Rich’s elaborate 1805 Federal Center Hall house reflected the standards and tastes of a successful entrepreneur. Built when settler families often lived in hillside dugouts, Rich’s mansion featured a Palladian window, tapered wooden columns, ten-foot ceilings, pricey multi-paned windows in every room, as well as intricately detailed woodwork throughout.

In 1973, Celina and Tom Moore bought the house. Its main section forms a two-story rectangle with four spacious rooms on each floor, each containing a fireplace. In the original kitchen hearth and fireplace, an ancient pot-holding cast iron crane is still in place, with brick-lined baking ovens on each side.

This past winter when heating oil prices soared, Celina and I developed profound respect for those long-ago families who heated with wood. Throughout the winters, someone had to trek tirelessly between house and wood pile to maintain eight hungry fires, four of them on the second floor. Today’s reality dictates a second floor with no heat. Family and grandchildren returning for Thanksgiving and Christmas vanish each evening beneath piles of blankets and quilts.

Today, the cozy winter fires that enliven the singing and lively mealtime chatter along with a storied house and a fertile vegetable garden will, someday, pass to generation number nine. They’ll settle comfortably within these stout walls, encircled by Samuel Rich’s enduring legacy.

A Revolutionary House

by Gale & Alan Rome



Our home in East Montpelier has a very interesting past. We are on Clark Road. The house dates back to 1797. Theophilus Clark returned from the Revolutionary War and built it. According to excerpts from *Across the Onion—A History of East Montpelier, Vermont 1781-1981* (Hill and Blackwell), Theophilus and his brother Nathaniel “heard about the town from many friends, including Barnabas Doty, who was Theophilus’ enlistment officer in the Revolution... [T]heir land was one of the most beautiful locations in town” (Hill and Blackwell p. 36). Theophilus settled here with his wife, Susannah Ellis, and their six children. He “purchased 118 acres adjacent to his brother Nathaniel’s land in 1795, cleared 100 acres, built a farmhouse, and lived there until his death in 1859.” Above the house is one of the town’s earliest burial grounds. In 1801 Theophilus deeded the cemetery to the town. Theophilus’ son, Theophilus Jr., married Philura Sparrow, stayed on the homestead, and provided for his parents in their old age. (Hill and Blackwell).

The house—word has it, but not confirmed—was the site of the original Barre Country (golf) Club. Confirming this, we have found old tees and golf balls on the grounds at times.

The Barnes Road Namesake

by Barbara & Allen Ploof

Some have wondered if our house is a renovated historic home. It is not. As the story goes, after both Ethel and William Barnes left their house on Barnes Road, it was put on the market (around 1965). It was in a state of disrepair. Howard Schaefer, a carpenter, lived down the road. He was concerned that “some hippies might buy it” and leave it as a neighborhood eyesore. So Howard (Bud) and his brother-in-law Dave Palmer bought it to fix up and resell. Soon into the project, they found the repairs were too costly, since even the sills beneath the house had rotted; so they razed the old house and constructed a new one just a little farther back from the road. The old house was a typical white cape with a central front door and central staircase, and it had an el on the right-hand end. Bud and



Dave had found plans in a magazine for a house of similar style. However, they increased the roof pitch to enlarge the upstairs and added a garage, so the new house didn't look quite like the old. Over the 45 years we have owned

it, we have added a deck, enclosed the porch, and added two rooms for an apartment. If Ethel and William could see it today, they would be hard-pressed to see its resemblance to their house.

Updating from the 18th Century

by Mark & Sue Stephens



For the last 37 years, we have lived on Lyle Young Road. It may be the oldest house in town, dating to the late 18th century. A goal of ours was to take steps to ensure another two centuries for the home we've loved. Toward that end, we moved the house back 75 feet, so it would no longer be plastered by snowplowing, while also creating a commanding view of the property and its surroundings. It now sits on a poured foundation—dry, spacious, and with a heated floor and heat pump hot water system for a cool, dry environment.

We have updated nearly everything in the house: windows, siding, insulation, etc. Currently, we are installing a heat pump system for most of the house, powered by our solar array on the barn we built almost 15 years ago. Walls we've built around the property are from Adamant-sourced quarried granite and from our original fieldstone foundation. Inside, we've opened it up by removing walls, and we have restored the unusual architectural feature of the inset front porch.

One way to mark the passage of time is to plant trees and bushes, which we have done throughout our years, yielding apples, plums, pears, and berries. Our home, which is historic but modernized, has been a labor of love and pride and has provided Susan and me, and our two kids, Andy and Liz (long grown now) a great place to grow up and grow older. Undoubtedly, it is the only home in town to have hosted three Olympic Gold Medalists!

TOWN WEATHERVANE

BIRTHS

- Callan Oates DiGiovanni, a daughter, was born in June to Lauren Oates and Matthew DiGiovanni
- Marisol Grace Padilla Whitehead, a daughter, born in July to Lauren Padilla and Todd Whitehead

MARRIAGES

- Logan Amell and Logan Hutchins, July
- Jessica Ibey and James Files, June
- Joshua Laird and Elizabeth Walsh, June
- Whitney Michoud and Jarrett Laquerre, July
- Yasmine Ziesler and Steven Kappel, June

DEATHS—survivors living in East Montpelier are listed when known

- Robert Buchicchio, husband of Harriet Buchicchio, died in June
- Joseph DeMartino, husband of Johanna DeMartino and father of Jeff DeMartino, died in June
- Francis Holmes, died in May
- Hester Manning, sister of Glenna Hale and Arthur Hale, died in June
- Patricia Renzello, grandmother of Quinn McDonagh, died in April
- Katherine Vaughn, wife of Jeremy Vaughn died in July

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.

- Kathy Andrus to Ryan Murphy & Pamela Adams, 4.2 acres and dwelling on Horn of the Moon Rd.
- Holly Carroll to Rebecca Tatistcheff and Patrick Reimer, 5.5 acres & dwelling on Factory St.
- Estate of Virginia Farley to Simone Labbanca & Juan Vistro, 1.8 acres and dwelling on Northview Rd.
- David & Joanne Guilmette to The Stephen F. Eldridge 1992 Trust, 5.31 acres of open land on Barnes Rd.
- Kimberly Hart & Karen Gagnon to Nicholas Bevel-Bourchard, a mobile home on Sandy Pines Rd.

- David Heller to Zachary LaPorte & Dakota Clark, 27.6 acres open land off VT14N
- Glen Kirkpatrick to Maxwell & Jaclyn Benton, 4.50 acres and dwelling on Banfield Rd.
- Julie Laquerre to Greg & Nancy Combs, 2 acres and dwelling on VT14N
- Steven & Suzanne Megrath to Jaimes Fewer, 10.1 acres & dwelling on Clark Rd.
- Patrick McCoy to John Gibson, 7.51 acres and dwelling on Bliss Rd.
- Pinard Family Trust to Benjamin & Birgit McCall, 2.37 acres and dwelling on Tay Con Dr.
- Estate of David Rogers to Singing Bridge Properties, 0.79 acre and multi-family unit on VT Route 14N
- Mary Ellen Simmons & Stephen Looke to Lauren Melkonian & Raymond Manning, II, 10 acres & dwelling on Lyle Young Rd.
- Estate of Donald Smith to DASS Enterprises, LLC, 0.34 acre and dwelling on VT14S
- Daniel & Lori Wilson to Rejean & Donna Gagnon, 2.09 acres of open land on Cookson Dr.
- Casey & Jacob Winterson to Owen Rachampbell & Anna Gerretson, 1.26 acres and dwelling on US2

The following are excerpts from minutes of EM's and WCUUSD 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

June 6, 2022

Motions Passed

- to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues at 6:50 pm and exited at 8:10 pm
- to approve the Warrant to Impound Unlicensed Dogs for June 6, 2022
- to approve the additional expenditure to complete the digitization of land records dating back to 1849
- to accept the proposal from Chase & Chase for oversight on the Morse Rd. and Barnes Rd. culvert projects

- to authorize TA Jenkins to obtain a credit card on behalf of the town with a limit of \$4,000
- to rescind the Covid-19 vaccination and mitigation policy for employees
- to appoint Michele Pallas as town treasurer through June 2022

June 13, 2022

Motion Passed

- to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues at 6:41 pm and exited at 7:28 pm
- to authorize Mr. Jewett and TA Jenkins to make an offer of employment to a candidate for the zoning administrator position

June 20, 2022

Public Hearings

Proposed Amendments to Town Plan
Proposed Amendments to Land Use and Development Regulations

Motions Passed

- to adopt the proposed amendments to Land Use and Zoning Regulations
- to transfer \$25,000 from Unused Vacation/Sick Fund and \$15,000 from Treasurer Transition Fund to General Fund
- to confirm the employment offer to Tyson Brown as Zoning Administrator at a salary of \$30k for an average of 24 hours per week with benefits in accordance with the personnel policy
- to approve the slate of charter-based appointments as presented, with the addition of Gina Jenkins as the E-911 coordinator: Town Clerk Rosie Laquerre, Assistant Town Clerk Denise Sparrow, Town Treasurer Michele Pallas, and Assistant Town Treasurer Denise Sparrow, Zoning Administrator Bruce Johnson (until June 30) with Tyson Brown appointed as of July 1, Collector of Delinquent Taxes and Collector of Current Taxes Michele Pallas, Road Commissioners Seth Gardner and Gina Jenkins
- to approve granting access and signing authority to Gina Jenkins and Michele Pallas on the Northfield and North Country investment accounts
- to approve permit 22-041 for a trench on old trail road for power access on the condition that the applicant

TOWN WEATHERVANE

adheres to the utility company's requirements and the agreement with Foreman Perry

- to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues at 8:12 pm; exited at 8:48 pm

June 11, 2022

Motions Passed

- to adopt the proposed amendments to the town plan
- to authorize Chair Gardner to sign the Treasurer's Financial Management Questionnaire
- to authorize Town Administrator Gina Jenkins to sign the VTrans Better Roads grant agreement for \$56k to replace the Cherry Tree Hill culvert
- to authorize Chair Gardner to sign access permits 22-026, 22-027 relative to an approved subdivision on Wheeler Road, and 22-041, approved on June 20
- to approve a mobile stipend in the amount of \$40 per month for Zoning Administrator Brown
- to enter into executive session to discuss personnel issues at 7:58 pm; exited at 8:15 pm

PLANNING COMMISSION

APRIL 7, 2022

Motions Passed

- to adopt the Planning Commission Rules of Procedure as presented

April 21, 2022

Motion Passed

- Discussion of Town Plan Amendment Hearing, Energy Plan data needs, and public outreach and engagement of Energy Committee

May 5, 2022

Public Comment on proposed Amendments to Town Plan

Motion Passed

- to send draft amendments to SB as is

May 19, 2022

Motion Passed

- to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues at 7:46 pm; exited at 9:04 pm
- to recommend Tyson Brown as Zoning Administrator to the SB

June 2, June 16, and July 7, 2022

Discussion of Energy Plan

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

JUNE 7, 2022

Motions Passed

- to continue two hearings until June 21, 2022 at 7 pm

JUNE 21, 2022

Motions Passed

- to approve the Application #22-025 for the addition as presented, for alterations to its mixed-use property located at 4423 US2, submitted by M. Bolduc Leasing LLC
- to approve Application #22-028 as a Preliminary Plan for a subdivision of its 11-acre property located on Wheeler Road; submitted by Kitchen Sync Holdings, LLC

WCUUSD

JUNE 1, 2022

Motions Passed

- to accept the recommendation from the superintendent regarding year-round staff for 2021-22
- to approve the following hires: Ruari Hutchison, Philip Montenegro, James Haseltine, and Matthew Davide
- to accept resignation of Sarah Sprague

June 10, 2022 (Special Board Meeting)

Motions Passed

- to enter into executive session for a student matter, to include Interim Superintendent Jen Miller-Arsenault, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Jes Wills, Caroline Grace, the student and their legal guardian(s) at 8:33 pm and exited at 8:52 pm
- to accept the administration's recommendation regarding the student matter

June 15, 2022 (via Zoom)

Motions Passed

- to enter into executive session for the purpose of superintendent evaluation, to include Sue Ceglowski at 5:03 pm; exited at 5:47 pm
- to enter executive session for a student matter, to include Jen Miller-Arsenault, at 5:48 pm; exited at 6:15 pm

- to accept the administration's recommendations regarding two student matters

June 23, 2022 (Special Board Meeting)

Motions Passed

- to enter into executive session for a student matter, to include Jen Miller-Arsenault, Aaron Boynton, Adrienne Shea, and student family members, at 5:11 pm; exited at 7:10 pm
- to affirm the Administration's decision regarding both the policy conclusion and the related discipline in the confidential student matter

My Forever Friend

By Pam Hudson

When she met me
I was nine, she was seven.
That was in 1953!

We've shared many memories,
too numerous to mention,
but that black velvet coat
really got a lot of attention!

We never lived too far apart,
except when I moved to
Morrisville ...
Oh, God! That nearly broke
our hearts!

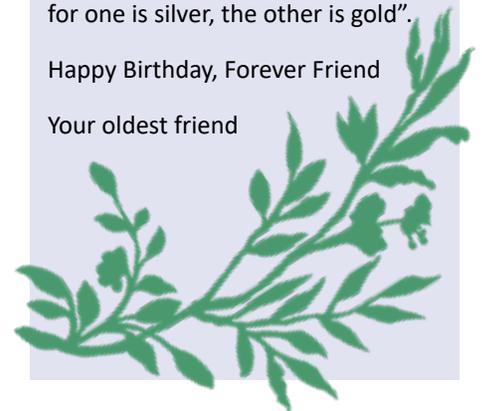
We look back on how the years
have gone by—through the
laughter and the tears—
The year is 2022.
We've been friends for 49 years

As the saying goes ...

"Make new friends, but keep the old,
for one is silver, the other is gold".

Happy Birthday, Forever Friend

Your oldest friend



Fall Specialties: Apples and Pumpkins

by Ann Stanton

It's apple time! Each year in the fall, we glory in the ripening of apples and find all sorts of ways to ingest them. Loring Starr writes about her family's practice: "Most years we make a lot of applesauce—sometimes 40 quarts or more. We save leftover containers all year for storing and freezing the applesauce. I use a Squeezeo food mill—a marvelous device that mashes and strains seeds, skins, stems, and cores—so I just wash and quarter the apples and throw them into the big pot. Each batch gets a couple of cinnamon sticks and a bit of maple syrup. It's a long, hot, messy project that makes the whole house smell delicious."

Reportedly, Johnny Appleseed planted his trees not for sauce but for hard cider, which has been making a comeback. Most of us, however, buy and drink sweet cider (or make cider doughnuts). Some folks bypass the supermarket and press their own. For example, Sandal Cate reports, "We Cates at Fox Run Farm make cider in the years when the apples are plentiful, using Carroll Badger's old cider press. [The *Signpost* archive contains a longer story about Fox Run Farm.]

If you want to buy local cider and pick apples for pies,

check out the Peck Farm Orchard at 750 Sibley Road. They sell fresh-pressed sweet cider and their own hard cider. Their "pick-your-own" apple orchard contains over a dozen apple varieties. Go to peckfarmorchard.com for more information.

by Sandal Cate

Our pumpkin patch at Fox Run Farm is actually part of a Native American-style practice of planting winter squashes around the perimeter of our corn rows. The intent is to discourage corn-loving critters from crawling through and to allow the vines space to roam under the corn stalks. We do use an electric fence as well, but we always hope the pumpkin plants are prickly enough to discourage raccoons from coming through.

Each summer our grandsons plant one or more "mystery plants" in their areas of the garden. Mystery plants require waiting until they bloom or fruit to identify them. We provided one grandson with Little October pumpkins, which were more like gourds in their firmness. He brought a big batch of them to school for his young classmates to paint as fall decorations. And, as I plant pie pumpkins, we're all happy when we can use them to bake pumpkin pies, muffins, and breads.

Paulie's Recipe Corn Pudding

INGREDIENTS

2 T corn starch
2 large or 3 small eggs
3/4 cup sugar
2 T melted butter
1 large can evaporated milk
1 can DelMonte cream style corn

DIRECTIONS

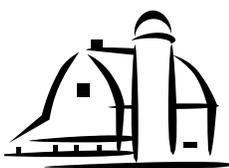
Mix first 3 ingredients. Add milk and corn. Pour melted butter on top. Bake at 325° for 1 hour.

From the East Montpelier School Cookbook, assembled in the 1970s.
Recipe submitted by Gladys Cote.



Comment from Paulie Coburn: You can substitute fresh or frozen corn (2 cups), a combination of 1 cup of milk and 1 cup of

cream instead of the cream style corn and evaporated milk. Also, 2 or 3 tablespoons of sugar, not 3/4 cup, was enough for me. This is a side dish, not a dessert.



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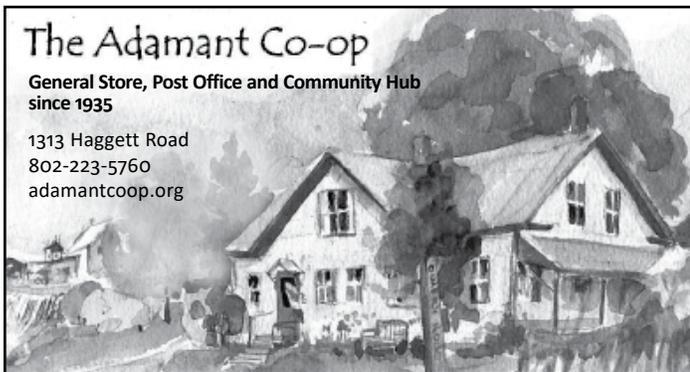
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IMPORTANT DATES

Mon. Sep 19, East Montpelier Historical Society—program, time and place TBA

Mon. Oct 17, East Montpelier Historical Society—program, time and place TBA; please contact Sandal Cate at sandal.cate@gmail.com for more information.

Tues. Nov 8, 7 am - 7 pm, General Election, EMES (ballots mailed to all voters by secretary of state) —ballots must be returned to the town office or deposited in the dropbox by 5 pm or may be carried to polling place during voting hours.

Tues. Nov 15, First installment of local taxes due at the town office no later than 5 pm.

Thurs. - Fri. Nov 24-25, Thanksgiving holiday, town office closed

• VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY •

Ann Stanton is looking for a replacement to take over as East Montpelier Eats coordinator since she is now the *Signpost's* managing editor. Interested in exercising your foodie chops in East Montpelier? Contact Ann at profstanton@aol.com.

Thank you for your support

**LAURA BROWN
EARLE & LOUISE ELLINGWOOD
RUTH FROST**

SUBMISSIONS FOR NOVEMBER-DECEMBER SIGNPOST DUE: OCTOBER 3, 2022

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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