

The Little Shop Upstairs

by Janet MacLeod

A photograph in the Times Argus from 2016 was captioned, “Artist Janet MacLeod arranges a display at her pop-up holiday store dubbed the Little Shop Upstairs. The converted studio is located above the Adamant Co-op in Calais and features paintings, papier-mâché creatures, note cards, and other items by MacLeod and friends.” That seems to have been the beginning. We may have missed a year since then, but it has become a given that we will fill the space with wonderful things each December.

Since then, several people have helped with all the work that makes it happen each year. This includes arranging displays, collecting items, and keeping track of what we have and what sells. Joni Clemons and her organizational skills have helped streamline the operations. Others who help set up and keep the displays up-to-date include: Karen Kane, Molly Powers, Janet Wass, Eva Gumprecht, and Jane Wass. They have helped run the shop, as well as contributing their creations.

We are fortunate to live in a community of writers, painters, bakers, craftspeople, and neighbors who do interesting things that we often stumble upon by chance. It's always fun to discover what others in our community are up to, so part of the idea of the Little Shop Upstairs was to offer a place to share and sell what we make—even if it's just a few items. A few jars of jam? Some fun literary mobiles? Some critters from recycled egg cartons? Pickles, pottery, knitted hats, colorful quilted placemats. And of course, edible goodies.

In past years we've had placemats, scarves, and pot holders from Jane Wass, pottery from Renee Carpenter, chocolate ginger rum balls from Karen Kane, jewelry from Regina Thompson, wooden fish wall hangings from Leighton Wass, flavored vinegars from Mollie Powers, dye-cut note cards from Marjorie Merena, biscotti from Eva Gumprecht, felted slippers and knitted hats from Donna Winn, recycled paper notebooks from Joni Clemons, and papier mâché critters from Janet MacLeod. Sometimes,



photos by Janet MacLeod

A variety of hand-crafted items are displayed in the store.

things are added as the month goes on, so it's worth visiting more than once. And there is a tea kettle and a couch if you want to hang out for a while.

I started renting the upstairs over 20 years ago when it was being used for storage. I didn't like coming down Center

The Little Shop Upstairs, continued p. 7

Poet T.S. Eliot famously called April the “cruellest month.” I’m thinking that November, aka “stick season,” could vie for that title. Granted, the mud of spring can be grueling, but November means that we will soon face real winter, not spring.

So, instead, let’s look on the brightest side! For one thing, we have a few delightful upcoming holidays, sharing fabulous food and fun with family and friends. And then Vermont is known for many outdoor activities such as skiing, snowboarding, skating, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, XC skiing, sledding, tubing, or going on a sleigh ride. And who doesn’t love those first flakes falling, followed by

building a snowperson, crafting a snow fort, or having a good ol’ snowball fight?

Let us treasure, not dread, the upcoming months. How about doing an extra jigsaw puzzle, phoning a friend you haven’t contacted in a long time, trying your hand at writing a poem, making a new recipe (or revisiting one you’ve always loved), baking bread, painting a room a bright color? Whatever you do, make the most of the winter months. And, as the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley wrote, “If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?”

—Merry Schmidt is an editor, gardener, outdoor enthusiast, and former teacher.

2023 Town Meeting



Town Meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2023. The question looming large is whether or not it will be held in-person. It has been two years since the Covid-19 pandemic relegated Town Meeting to a simple Australian ballot. And,

as a result, the Town Meeting Potluck Lunch has also been on hiatus.

The Selectboard will arrive at a decision early next year. Only then will we know if the potluck where we come together as a community and share a meal will also be held! Keep your eyes peeled as I will post announcements on Front Porch Forum.

—Sue Racanelli is coordinator of EM’s extraordinary Town Meeting Potluck Lunch.

WCUUSD Short on Staff

On Monday, October 3, the following announcement was sent from U-32 to its community of students, families, and staff: “Due to staff shortage, we are only able to run a half day of school. Students will be dismissed at 11:25 a.m. A bag lunch will be provided upon dismissal. Middle School field trips are canceled. Please stay tuned for information about sports cancellations and reschedules.” This scenario is playing out across Vermont and nationwide. The day WCUUSD put out the above announcement, Spaulding High School was closed for the same reason.

WCUUSD has many positions unfilled even now—well into the school year. If you or someone you know may qualify as a substitute teacher or for other positions in our school system, please contact Carla Messier at cmessier@u32.org. To learn more about job opportunities in the U-32 district go to wcsu32.org/Page/1304.

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East Montpelier Signpost

PO Box 184
East Montpelier VT 05651

www.emSignpost.com

Signpost Archive
Business Supporters
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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 vtspots@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 merrykschmidt@gmail.com

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

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

Ann Stanton
Managing Editor
223-5321 profstanton@aol.com

Printed by L. Brown & Sons Printing 476-3164

When the Ice Is Nice: The Hangar 47 Skating Rink

by Michelle Singer

photo courtesy of Shaline Bennett



Maybe you are one of the 527 followers of the Hangar 47 Skating Rink on Facebook and know all about this privately owned and publicly shared ice rink. Or maybe you've driven by rbTechnologies on Route 14 and seen some kind of structure in their huge parking lot and wondered what it was. Or maybe you don't know anything about Rubin and Shaline Bennett's years-long experiment with "backyard ice" and are about to be let in on one of East Montpelier's best-kept secrets.

Any way you come at it, the Hangar 47 Skating Rink, next to the Hangar Building—home to Rubin's rbTechnologies business just south of NCFCU on Route 14—is worth knowing about. What began as a front yard ice patch for Rubin & Shaline's sons, Justin and Calen (their daughter Lacey was too young to be as interested yet), to play around on has turned into a full-on home-grown parking lot rink with night lighting and a warming shed. "We figured that it wasn't that much more effort to create a rink that we could share," says Rubin.

After many, many, iterations, and a lot of trial and error, they have landed on a 50' x 100' footprint that is maintained by their 26th version (or so) homemade Zamboni. It features a 65-gallon (more than 500 pounds!) tank for hot water and a repurposed tractor. Since 2015, when they first set up in the Hangar Building parking lot, and 2017, when they cautiously opened up to the community, they have put in countless hours wrangling with engineering problems like creating a level surface, getting the ice to set without bumps and bulges, keeping the ice smooth throughout a winter

under varying conditions, all while choosing which items to sacrifice to the cause. "My garden cart has never been the same," notes Shaline.

Their expenses include the large sheet of plastic from Ironsleek, made specifically for backyard ice, that arrives in a roll so heavy that it has to be moved by tractor. It will only last them two years before they need to replace it. Further costs include the propane to heat the two teenage-showers-worth of hot water for each "Zamboni" run, lumber for the framing and lighting, electricity for night lighting, and time.

All the work and effort are worth it when Shaline and Rubin see people out on the ice having fun. From about December to March, when the rink is in use, they see a steady stream of people all day and into the evening. Families, hockey players, kids, and adults get outside and enjoy Vermont's long winter. Their hope is that more folks know about it and come out to enjoy it. Shaline says, "We get to visit with people we might not normally see as much, and our daughter, Lacey, has so many more spontaneous playdates!"

The hockey players are an especially dedicated group of users. "We see some kids come out by themselves to run drills for hours," says Rubin. Not everyone gets a lot of time on the ice during games and practice, and the Hangar Rink is one way that aspiring players can get in that much-needed time. The proof is in the snowbanks. Last year, when the banks melted, they found 76 pucks!

Now, self-described "ice farmers," Rubin and Shaline have become attuned to the fickleness of the weather during the cold months. Every time it snows, the rink must be shoveled and snow-blown. If it rains, they hope it's cold right afterwards. Most importantly, when it warms up too much, the ice is soft and becomes damaged if folks skate or walk on it. It then takes a lot longer to get the ice nice and smooth again. When you visit, please respect signage that will let you know if the ice is "closed" until conditions are right again.

Our thanks to Rubin, Shaline, and family for their generous contribution to the community!

—Michelle Singer lives on Cherry Tree Hill Road with her family, a very convenient distance from the Hangar Skating Rink.

John S. Hall Does It Again

by Barbara Ploof

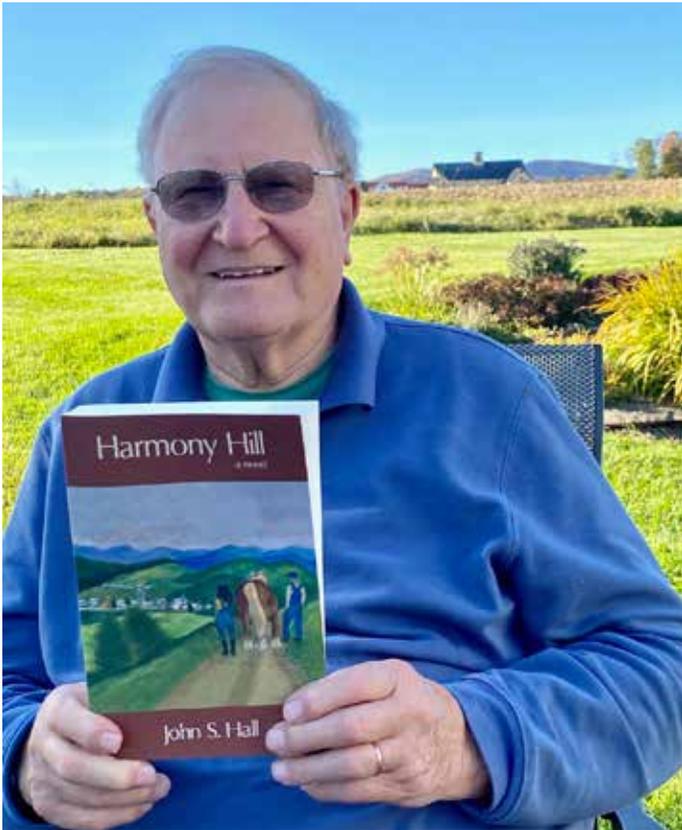


photo by Linda Hall

One of the *Signpost* staff, Hilari Farrington, was in Nova Scotia this past summer when someone struck up a conversation with her.

“Where are you from?”

“Well, you probably haven’t heard of it, but I’m from East Montpelier, Vermont.”

“Yes, I’ve heard of it. You have several writers living there.”

And when Hilari looked a bit uncertain, he said, “Isn’t that where John Hall lives?”

John S. Hall is certainly a writer, having completed his fourth book, *Harmony Hill*, last year; he is now working on its sequel. He is also working on a new edition of his first book, *The West Window*, which was published in 2006 and has sold over 2,000 copies. He has also written *The Meadow* and *Cooner’s Bench*. All of these books draw on John’s experiences as a farmer. Farming has been his career from the time he began helping his father on the family farm in Bennington until the time he turned over the reins to Fairmont Farm LLC when it was organized.

So how does one go from farming to writing? John says

it wasn’t a planned move at all. When his family spent time at their camp in Woodbury, he needed something to do while the others enjoyed swimming. John didn’t care for water sports, so he filled his quiet time writing stories and discovered the pleasure of doing that. His first book caught on well, and he was encouraged to continue writing. Here and there along the way, friends and family helped with editing and giving suggestions, but by the time he started on *Harmony Hill* he decided there was more he wanted to learn. Each book had left him feeling it could have been better.

He inquired at the Vermont College of Fine Arts if there might be a local editor who would work with him. They recommended Amabel Siorghlas of Marshfield who had been a teacher and then a professional editor. John has been grateful for her help and acknowledges the difference she has made in his writing. One lesson he learned from her was to be aware of “the white space.” By that she meant all the space around a character that is not described. “Fill in the whole picture,” she suggested. “When a character enters a room, describe it in detail so the reader can see it too.” A second lesson was, “Show, don’t tell. If a character is embarrassed, don’t say that, but describe his reddening face.” Amabel also helped John with sentence structure and keeping the flow of the story going. John feels her editing has really improved his writing, and he is pleased with *Harmony Hill*. It took him five years to write it. He writes and rewrites and makes his own improvements—even before his editor makes suggestions.

I enjoyed reading *Harmony Hill*. The lives of the characters in this small town were not harmonious much of the time, and the tension in their situations kept me anxious to see what would happen next. Each person had their struggles, and their lives were intertwined with threads of good and bad.

This book would make a great Christmas present. It is available at Fairmont Market, Bragg Farm, Agway, Adamant Co-op, and area bookstores. The reader will get to know Jubal, Maria, Benny, and Lizzy and will certainly look forward to finding out what happens to them in John’s sequel which will be available next Christmas.

—Barbara Ploof is a long-time *Signpost* volunteer and a reader of John Hall’s books, always enjoying his descriptions of life on small farms as it used to be.

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

Twin Valley Senior Center News

by Gene Troia, Executive Director

The sun is sitting lower in the sky as we turn toward fall; there's a hustle and bustle happening at TVSC. Join us and our new chef Marlana Pickel for a homemade lunch at noon every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We offer door to door transportation year-round through GMTA. To make arrangements, call (802) 223-3322 or email director@twinvalleyseniors.org. Stop by between 9 am-2 pm to enjoy cribbage, a puzzle, or light banter. Current class offerings:

- Bone Builders with Cort Richardson; *via Zoom*, M/W/F 7:30-8:30 am
- Bone Builders with Sue Carey; *in person*, M/W 9-10:00 am
- Chair Yoga with Karen Kennedy; *in person*, Mondays 3-4:00 pm (\$20/mo)
- Tai Chi with Pat Boyle; *in person*, Tuesdays from 10-11:00 am
- Tai Chi with Dyne Sapp; *in person*, Fridays from 10-11:00 am
- SASH Bingo with prizes; *in person*, every 1st & 3rd Monday at 1:00 pm
- Blood Pressure Clinics; 2nd Wednesday of the month. 11:00 am-1:00 pm
- Mystery Book Club; *in person*, first Thursday of each month
- Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice Foot Clinics; on a monthly basis
- Art Classes; *in person*, advertised periodically

Hide and Seek

by Susan Pearson Gabor

This late submission for the home stories featured in the Sept-Oct issue is a charming tale of growing up in East Montpelier.

My childhood was one of those ideal rural American dreams. All the neighborhood kids played together, left to our own devices and unsupervised throughout the better part of the long summer days. Sunny days were spent outdoors and rainy days within. I really only recall playing hide and seek in my house and in my closest neighbor's. Being the youngest and smallest, this was a game at which I excelled. Given this fact, I am not sure why my neighbor, Todd, shared his secret with me. I guess some secrets are so amazing, they beg to be shared. This one certainly was.

As the countdown to hide began, we all scrambled to find our respective hiding places. Todd grabbed me by the hand, motioning for me to be quiet as he led me to his closet door. "Too obvious," I whispered. "Trust me," he replied. Once inside, the slats in the closet doors provided a small amount of light. Todd pushed some hanging

clothes aside, revealing a ladder built into the wall. Lifting a hatch in the floor, Todd motioned me down. There, between the floor and the ceiling below, we crouched, giggling, as our friends were each discovered one by one. Eventually, we could stand it no longer. Laughing raucously Todd slid a panel away, revealing the top shelf of the downstairs closet. As we navigated the tiny opening, the closet door swung open, and we were discovered sneaking from our hiding spot.

That was just another day in the neighborhood where I grew up. The memories are fading, but the magic remains. I was sad when that family moved away, but even more so when new owners renovated—forever sealing away the magic ladder that hid me away that summer day.

—Susan Pearson Gabor grew up on Bliss Rd. and now lives with her husband in Effort, PA.

Pitching in on the Home Front

by Anne and Conrad Ormsbee

By June 1942, the United States was at war. President Roosevelt was rallying those on the home front to use less, save, and produce more; rationing was the persuader. Gasoline, tires, shoes and boots, sugar, meat, butter, and other foods were either rationed or unavailable.

The manufacturers of cars and machinery had converted to making military machines. Boards of civilian volunteers decided how to distribute the existing stocks of cars and farm machinery. Gasoline and lubricants for farm use were allocated in like manner. Charles Ormsbee (Conrad Ormsbee's father), of East Montpelier, served on at least two of these boards. Perhaps this activity led to the choice of the family for a photographic documentary of how rural people were supporting the war effort.

On June 13, 1942, a photographer, Fritz Henle, was escorted to the Ormsbee farm on Center Road by Gordon Loveless, the Washington County Extension agricultural agent. Mr. Loveless's duties, no doubt, expanded during these times, but his normal role with dairy farmers was to encourage the use of science-based practices related to soil, crops, and animals.

The Ormsbee family then consisted of Charles, his mother Myrtie, his wife Myrtle, and children: Marilyn (age 14), Conrad (11), and Richard (5) as shown below in the photo. Also showing in the photo of the family at dinner is Irving Welton, who worked on the farm during the war.

There are twenty photos from that day, mostly posed, and a few in unnatural settings to take advantage of the natural light. Photographer Henle took photos of grandmother, Myrtie, in her rocking chair on the back porch knitting a sweater, with Marilyn or Richard in conversation. (Neither that chair nor her shiny black shoes had ever before been seen on that back porch, and she wasn't happy!)



The Ormsbees at dinner.

Knitting for either civilian and military use was encouraged, including the knitting of six-inch squares by school children for later assembly into afghans for soldiers. Mature milk weedpods, collected mainly by children, provided filler for life preservers.

Some photos of the milking process were taken at the normal time since, as we know, cows wait for no one. The photo below shows Conrad's 4-H project calf which took "Best of Show" the following summer at the Washington/Orange County Field Day at Goddard College—though she later turned out to be a mediocre milk producer. Increasing numbers and quality of milking cows was vital in increasing milk production for the country. Farm families were urged to save scrap materials. The Ormsbees and their neighbors collected over three thousand pounds of scrap metal one month. Old tires and scrap paper were collected in large quantities as well. Scrap aluminum was especially vital. Small quantities of rubber bands, tin-foil, and cooking fat



Conrad and his prize calf

were saved, all for the war effort.

Young children did their part in various ways, as a picture of Richard in the garden with a hoe illustrated. This garden, tended mainly by Myrtle and Mr. Welton, contained as many as forty tomato plants along with comparable quantities of other vegetables.

A part of saving during this period was through War Bonds, a substantial part being savings stamps of small denominations. These stamps were purchased and accumulated in a book until the aggregate value equaled that of a War Bond. Pictures show Richard licking these stamps and putting them in a book while seated with his mother

who was doing farm records at the dining table.

By coincidence, on the same day that the photographer visited, there was a meeting of the Center Girls 4-H Club held at the John Badger home (later that of Carroll Badger). The club activities centered



Richard and Myrtle doing their parts.

on cooking and sewing as influenced by war conditions. About this time, some grains were delivered to farmers, not in burlap bags, but rather cotton bags with floral prints. If handled with care they could be made into aprons or other items. The club leader was Wilma Schaefer Johnson, the president was Marilyn Ormsbee Piro, and members Marion Kimball, Marion Schaefer Palmer, Elsie Erickson Conti, Louise Ebbett Bothfeld, and Freida Badger Scribner were present.



Center Girls 4-H Club members

To view eleven of the photos online, search for Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Black-and-White Negatives; type in Fritz Henle, see photos numbered 322 through 332.

—Anne and Conrad Ormsbee were long-time EM residents and integral parts of our community. They continue their contributions to our town from their current home in Massachusetts which places them closer to their family.

Road seeing cardboard boxes stacked in the windows, making it look like an abandoned building. So, we started to actually use the space, making one room into a gallery area (later turned into a licensed kitchen for the Co-op) with other spaces open to be used for workshops, teas, or special projects requiring some peace and quiet. Over the years, there have always been volunteers willing to clean and organize it for whatever event we were planning. It has been shared by Eben Bodach-Turner, making his elegant bows for string instruments, and by Susan Bull Riley working on her delicate watercolors of nature and the surrounding landscape.

Last year, after a crew cleaned out the large middle room that housed my studio so the upstairs could be insulated, weatherized, and a new ceiling installed; then we painted walls, doorways, and the floor. With the southern view looking out over Sodom Pond and the wetlands—a view that changes colors and moods with the seasons—it seemed too inviting a place not to share with more people; so, I moved my studio into a smaller west room permanently. Having the larger space just made it more tempting for me to collect too many materials and make more messes. The smaller room is perfect. Now the middle room is community space for the Co-op. Of course, then we started thinking of ways to use it and remembered the winter workshops we had years ago. So, there we were again, asking around for who had skills to share with others and the responses ranged from snowshoe treks, to beading, to making pie crusts and nature sketchbooks.

This fall we have exhibits of local artists starting with Joy Seadeek and Suzanne Rexford Winston for the month of October. Come mid-November we hope to start filling the space with creations from the neighborhood, as we organize the Little Shop Upstairs for the holidays.

There is no fee to participate, though we say that if you sell things, donations to the Co-op are appreciated. The shop is open from November 27 through December 24 during Co-op hours: 8 am - 6 pm on weekdays, 10 am - 3 pm Saturday, and 10 am - 1 pm Sunday. That said, it has also been a nice fundraiser for the Co-op and a fun place for people to shop. If you're interested in participating, get in touch with Joni Clemons at [clemons.joni@gmail.com](mailto:joni@gmail.com) or Janet MacLeod at janetmac@ezcloud.com.

—Janet MacLeod is a long-time EM resident, an artist, a founding member of the Signpost who created its logo, and a key member of the Adamant Co-op.

TOWN WEATHERVANE

BIRTHS

- Desmond Mateo Contrada, a son, born in September to Amelia & David Contrada

MARRIAGES

- Gabriel Spence & Zoë Hanley married in August
- Laurie Morrill & Edward Reynolds married in September
- Elaine Murphy & Henry Tittmann married in September

DEATHS—survivors living in East Montpelier are listed when known

- Katherine Vaughan, wife of Jeremy Vaughan died in July
- Mary Lou Potter, wife of Roy Potter, died in August
- Milton Russell died in August
- Robert Hitt, father of Nikki (& Robert) Walbridge died in September
- Gary Marsha, Sr., husband of Ellen, died in September

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.

- Washington Electric Cooperative to Cross Vermont Trail Association, an easement off Fassett Rd.
- Coleman & Jody Parker to Jada & Nikhil Khosla, 20 acres & dwelling on Vincent Flats Rd.
- John Williams & Colleen Purcell to Shelby Perry, 1.87 acres & dwelling on Sanders Circle
- Erin Meharg Harris & Carlton Harris to Alison Morrow & John Henle, 0.44 acre and dwelling on US2
- Samuel & Doreen Palmisano to Eileen & John Dube, Jr., 10.1 acres & dwelling on Dodge Rd.
- Jessica Adam to Lisa Weikert & Ryan Kratz, 3.02 acres & dwelling on Mays Way
- William, Cheryl, Michael & Robert Lamery, Robin Graves and Terrie Murphy to Lawrence Cohen, 1.4 acres & dwelling on Center Rd.
- Malone 3035 US Route 2 Properties, LLC to Fontaine Meadows LLC, 45.48 acres of open land on US2

- Charles Hale to Jamie Green, an undivided ½ interest in 14 acres & dwelling on Horn of the Moon Rd.
- Robert McLaughlin to Marlene Mueller, a mobile home on Sandy Pines Rd.
- Wendy Metheny, Karen Wright, Michelle Christie & Sandra Wright to Shawn & Laura Morrow, 26 acres & dwelling on VT14N
- Marc Fontaine to Marc Fontaine & Sharon Bissell, 28.64 acres & dwelling on Fontaine Lane
- Rodney Kovach & Katherine Paine to Brian Senecal & Kathleen Overbeck, 10.2 acres & dwelling on Center Rd.
- Estate of Glenn Bailey to Rena Pearson, 7.1 acres of open land off Fitch Rd.

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

August 1, 2022

Motions Passed

- to approve the 2022-23 property tax rates as presented
- to waive the homestead filing penalty
- to approve permit 22-054 for the Ayers curb cut on Foster Rd.

August 22, 2022

Motion Passed

- to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues; entered at 6:48 pm and exited at 7:27 pm
- to authorize TA Jenkins to make a job offer to the candidate interviewed tonight at a rate of \$25/hour, pending the results of a background check
- to authorize TA Jenkins to sign the change orders for the asphalt, fuel, and labor cost adjustment and the elimination of the calcium chloride cost
- to use the general fund to cover the remaining Village Sidewalk Project balance of \$66,029
- to accept the grant and authorize TA Jenkins to sign the FY23 Municipal Grants-In-Aid Agreement

- to approve the liquor permit for Blake wedding, Sibley Rd. and authorize Town Clerk Laquerre to sign the request.
- to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues; entered at 9:15 pm, exited at 9:48 pm

September 12, 2022

Motions Passed

- to authorize Chair Gardner to sign the letter of support for capital region dispatch enhancement on behalf of the Selectboard
- to appropriate \$100K from town ARPA funds to CV Fiber for building out fiber internet infrastructure in the town
- to authorize Ms. Dillon and Mr. Etnier to complete the contract for TA Jenkins to sign, subject to it going out to selectboard members by noon Tuesday and with no concerns raised by board members by noon Wednesday [September 14]
- to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues; entered at 8:07 pm and exited at 8:28 pm

September 14, 2022

Emergency Meeting

Motions Passed

- to authorize TA Jenkins to sign the CV Fiber agreement with discussed changes with the ultimate goal to have a signed document being sent to CV Fiber

PLANNING COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

Motions Passed

- to authorize Mr. Sullivan to work with the Selectboard to disband the existing energy committee

September 15, 2022

Motion Passed

- Discussion of proposed charter, roles, and responsibility for Energy Commission and public engagement for energy plan

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

AUGUST 2, 2022

Motions Passed

- to approve application #22-028 as submitted by Kitchen Sync Holdings LLC, for a subdivision of its 11-acre property located on Wheeler Rd

TOWN WEATHERVANE

SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

Motions Passed

- to approve application #22-051 for a proposed subdivision of the Jewett/Vaillancourt property located at 130 Quaker Rd. and along McKnight Rd.

WCUUSD

AUGUST 17, 2022

Motions Passed

- to appoint Superintendent Roy as VSBIT Proxy this year
- to appoint Ursula Stanley as VSBA Annual Meeting voting member
- to authorize moving \$250,000 from the FY25 boiler replacement at Calais Elementary School to FY23 and authorize the use of capital reserve funds to develop the scope and budget and proceed with the design development and bid documents for the project
- To authorize moving \$250,000 from the FY25 boiler replacement at East Montpelier Elementary School to FY23 for the boiler upgrades at East Montpelier Elementary School and U-32 Middle and High School
- to authorize the Superintendent to sign contracts with Messersmith Manufacturing for the boiler system upgrades at East Montpelier and U-32, not to exceed a total of \$250,000 contingent upon the state providing a bid waiver due to a sole source for proprietary equipment
- to adopt policy C8 Pupil Privacy Rights as presented
- to adopt policy C1 Student Education Records as presented
- to adopt policy C14 Section 504 & ADA Grievance Policy for Students & Staff as presented
- to approve new teacher nominations: Uriah Proctor- Mattingly, Christiana Usenza, Olga Benoit, Honi Bean Barrett, Maryellen Munday
- to approve long term substitute: Maxwell Segalla
- to approve change in position for Margaret Dawkins

September 7, 2022

Motions Passed

- to approve the hire of Nancy Robinson, 0.20 FTE Health/ Physical Education at Berlin Elementary
- to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters, followed by student matters, and inviting Superintendent Meagan Roy to participate; entered at 7:12 pm and adjourned by consensus at 8:35 pm

September 21, 2022

Board Meeting/Retreat

Motions Passed

- to reaffirm the Board goals: (1) Educational and Academic Outcomes, (2) Broadening Communication with the Community, (3) Long Term Planning
- to affirm the superintendent evaluation process and timeline, as presented
- to appoint Willow Mashkuri as student representative to the Board
- to accept Dennis Hill's resignation from the Board
- to approve the hire of Rose Circelli
- to approve long-term substitute Kit Walker
- to authorize the Superintendent to engage Black River Design to develop the necessary bid documents and vendor pre-qualification for the Doty AHU damper replacement, U-32 Boiler Circulator Pump Replacement and the U-32 HVAC Energy Recovery Units (ERUs) 20-year upgrade, for an amount not to exceed \$1,278,750
- to adopt the final version of the FY24 WCUUSD Budget Development Timeline, as updated September 8, 2022
- to adopt policy B1 Substitute Teachers

September 23, 2022

Special Board Meeting

(virtual only) (U)

Motions Passed

- to enter into executive session to consider a student discipline matter and to include Superintendent Meagan Roy, Cat Fair, and student family members; entered at 1:05 pm and exited at 1:27 pm

- to affirm the administration's decision regarding the related discipline in the confidential student matter
- to enter into executive session to consider a student discipline matter and to include Superintendent Roy, Cat Fair, and student family members; entered 1:33 pm and exited 1:56 pm
- to affirm the administration's decision regarding the related discipline in the confidential student matter

The Path By Margo Lasher

The path through the woods
hardened, pounded
by leaping deer
does with fawns
bucks with horns

The best path
is the deer path.

I trail Holly
she stalks
nose merged with earth
scenting scenting

And then she veers
leaps a thick log
pushes through
clustered brush
sheltering voles

And I have to decide.
I do not follow.

I am on the sole
path of dying
One unknown path
is enough.

—Margo Lasher lives on
Kelton Road with her son
and daughter-in-law.

Adamant Co-op

by Eva Gumprecht

Around 18 years ago, newly arrived in town, I attended an Adamant Co-op annual meeting that discussed increasing sales by offering more prepared food. I shyly raised my hand and asked if the store might need someone to help cook. The reaction was akin to a hapless gazelle wandering into a pride of lions. This turned out to be a wonderful partnership, even for the gazelle. The Co-op needed prepared foods, and I love cooking. Since then, an amazing group of volunteer cooks and bakers have made all of the prepared foods at the store, from the towering carrot cakes to everyone's favorite scones, the always-popular curried chicken salad, cheddar-chili-empanadas, sherried chicken pot pies, remarkable puff pastries, and much more.

Covid put a temporary halt to prepared food production, as the volunteers couldn't come together to cook. We've heard the plaintive cries of "When are the empanadas coming back?" and "Where are those wonderful ginger scones?" The ovens are back on! A bakery team has come together, so home-baked goods are available almost every day of the week. Layer cakes, pies, brownies, tortes, puff pastry, miracle bars, cookies, rugelach, and scones are singing their siren songs again. To find out what's on the counter each day, call the store or go to the Adamant Village Facebook page.

We have added new "grab & go" foods such as biriyani rice salad with currants and almonds, zingy sesame noodles, and the beloved curried chicken salad. Then, by the new year, we plan to stock the freezers with take-home dinner food: chicken pot pies, empanadas, African peanut soup, Brazilian black bean soup, and more—all made by teams of volunteers. (It truly takes a village to turn out the hundreds of empanadas all of you rush to stash away in your freezers.)

We want to make a party of increasing our prepared foods offerings: gathering people who love to cook, bringing in pizzas, putting on music, and going at it. My friend remarked, "Like a barn raising." Exactly! A culinary barn raising. And we invite anyone who enjoys cooking to come join in the fun. No need to be a great cook—we help each other. If you're interested, just get in touch with me at eva@evagumprecht.com.

The really special thing about the food at the Co-op, aside from its quality, is how it gets made. People come together because they care about the community, because it's fun, because they love working together. Plus, someone has to eat those dropped empanadas and broken cookies.

—Eva Gumprecht lives on Adamant Rd. and is a long-time volunteer and supporter of the Co-op.

Paulie's Recipe Sweet Curried Chicken

INGREDIENTS

1 package, chicken, skin removed
 1/2 cup honey
 1 t salt
 1/4 cup mustard
 1/2 stick butter
 1 t curry (or more if desired)

DIRECTIONS

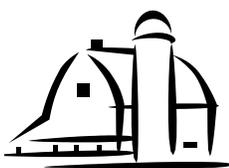
Melt butter in baking pan. Add honey, salt, mustard, and curry. Turn chicken in sauce to coat and arrange in a single layer.
 Bake at 375° for about an hour.



Comment from Paulie Coburn: You can substitute maple syrup for the honey. Boneless chicken can be

cut into inch wide strips. This recipe also makes a nice sauce to pour over rice.

From the Brick Church Club Cookbook (1980's). Submitted by Corlette McCoy



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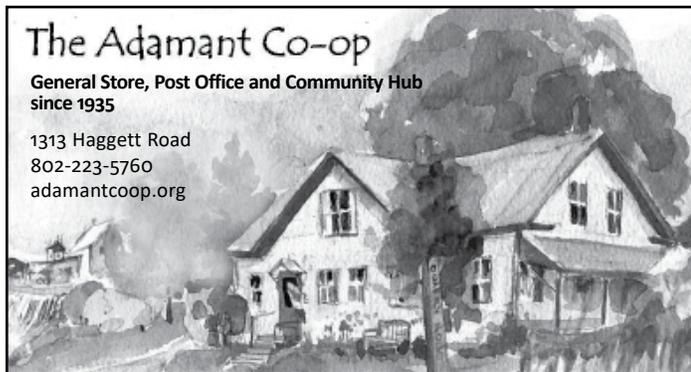
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IMPORTANT DATES

Tues. Nov. 8, 7 am - 7 pm, General Election, EMES, Ballots must be at the town office by 5 pm or deposited at the polls at EMES by 7 pm

Tues. Nov. 15, First Installment of taxes due at town office - no later than 5 pm

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

Mon. Dec. 26, Christmas holiday, town office closed

Mon. Jan. 2, New Year's Day holiday, town office closed

Mon. Jan. 16, MLK, Jr. holiday, town office closed

Mon. Feb. 20, President's Day, town office closed

Tues. Jan. 3 - Mon. Apr. 3, Annual Dog License renewal period

• LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER? •

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

NANCY COUCH

SUBMISSIONS FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2023 SIGNPOST DUE: NOVEMBER 28, 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

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