

## Looking For Snow and Finding It in East Montpelier

by Rachel Senechal



*Hobie Guion and Apple Faulkner*

In 1992 Apple Faulkner and Hobie Guion wanted to move north. Already aware of climate change, they knew they wanted to live somewhere with more reliable snow than their place in Stoddard, New Hampshire. Each had been to college in Vermont (Sterling for Apple; UVM and VTC for Hobie) and thought it was a place worth exploring. Hobie, a professional builder, and Apple, unskilled laborer(!), purchased a fixer-upper on Kelton Road. The circa 1816 house had sat empty for a few years, and they transformed the dark, neglected house into a warm and inviting home.

As young out-of-towners they were heartened to be warmly welcomed by the 'elders' on the road—Ruth and

Kendall Frost, Gladys Dunkling, Betty Pulsifer, and Doug Johnson among them. Ruth soon recruited Hobie to join the Four Corners Schoolhouse board, where he's served nearly 30 years.

After renovating their home, Hobie began taking on small jobs and was eventually asked to build a house in the neighborhood for their friends Charlie Wanzer and Lydia Faesy. The house became Hobie's first 5 Star Certified project and renewed his interest in energy efficiency. Once that house was completed, more building requests came along, and soon he was busier than ever specializing in net zero homes—super-insulated, energy efficient, electric, solar, grid-connected with no fossil fuels.

With two new knees, Hobie is no longer involved with heavy construction but remains active as a co-owner (with Charlie Wanzer) of Worcester Hydro, producing electricity in Worcester from the North Branch of the Winooski. He can also be found, with some frequency, in his woodshop.

Apple and Hobie have two children, both born at home. Henry, now 28, is in his eighth year as a ski instructor, presently at SnowBird in Utah. He is also a burgeoning self-taught machinist. He's been building a workshop in his Barre Town house, where he and his girlfriend, Melanie, live when not ski-instructing. Henry has told his parents that after this ski season, they will return to Vermont full-time. His parents remain hopeful.

Eliza, now 25, lives in Lewiston, Maine, and is an instructor with FoodCorps, a grantee of Americorps. As a teacher of nutrition, gardening, and cooking, she stays very busy providing hands-on experiences to students in grades K-6. Besides being a foodie, Eliza is an artist, a

It's that time of year when, while winter is just beginning (and it's been a long time coming this year), I'm thinking ahead to Town Meeting Day on Tuesday, March 7—which many of us think signals the beginning of winter's end. Time is a strange quantity these days.

But the point of these musings is to note that Town Meeting heralds a welcome day of community which takes two forms. The first is the sheer pleasure of getting together with folks we appreciate but may not see regularly; and secondly it is the time to give back to this place we call home by getting involved. The enjoyment of gathering has been denied us for two years and so will be most welcome in March 2023 when plans for an in-person Town Meeting are in the works. Be sure to be there!

The "giving back" part is just as pleasurable and far more

long-lasting. Municipal government in East Montpelier depends on the participation and good-will of its citizens serving as elected officials and on important local boards and committees. It relies on enthusiastic, hard-working people who are willing to donate their time and their skills to keep our corner of the world functioning. And it is very easy to take part and to have a real impact.

To become involved requires early action—that means now—in order to complete nomination petitions which are due on January 30. The officers we will be electing on March 7 are listed below. Please seriously consider running; you'll never regret it. Details can be found on the East Montpelier website at [eastmontpeliervt.org](http://eastmontpeliervt.org) or call the town office at (802) 223-3313.

—*Edie Miller is a longtime resident and active participant in EM civic life.*



## Town Meeting Potluck: Still Under Consideration

**With Covid still lurking, should our famous Town Meeting Potluck be held?**

Please let Sue Racanelli know, yes or no, if you would be interested in attending the potluck in person. If no, do you have other creative ideas of how to foster the sense of community we feel from sharing a meal together? Please share your thoughts with Sue at [racanellis@comcast.net](mailto:racanellis@comcast.net).

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

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### East Montpelier Signpost

PO Box 184  
East Montpelier VT 05651

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

Signpost Archive  
Business Supporters  
Links to Other Town Information

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# On the Road with the Mitzvah Fund

by Andrea Stander

Travel Center Road much? Have you seen Baby Huey? Baby Huey belongs to The Mitzvah Fund and is parked at Deb Glottmann's home. I am a newbie volunteer and I'd like to share with you some of Baby Huey's latest adventures.

The Mitzvah Fund is a non-profit organization based in East Montpelier. (A Mitzvah is a kindness or a worthy deed performed selflessly.) Its mission is to provide needed, non-emergency, veterinary care to the companion animals of Vermont veterans, low-income seniors, disabled first responders, and those who are living without housing.

The Fund's goal is to support our neighbors and their four-legged family members when they are facing economic hardship. We provide care for one animal per household per year. Deb Glottmann, Certified Veterinary Technician, of East Montpelier and Connie Riggs, DVM, of Worcester cofounded the fund in 2006.

Last February, The Mitzvah Fund was fortunate to acquire a mobile veterinary clinic. Affectionately known as "Baby Huey" (38 feet long and weighing in at 21,000 pounds), Huey is now adorned with the Mitzvah Fund's eye-catching logo and touching photos of the animals it serves. The mobile clinic, which includes full surgery and dentistry suites, digital body and dental x-ray units, and all the equipment and supplies needed to provide excellent care, has been a regular sight in front of City Hall in Montpelier on Fridays all summer and fall. Our newest adventure is in partnership with Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) and Meals on Wheels.

On the last day of November, in a soaking rain, The Mitzvah Fund's veterinary team and their dedicated volunteers took their mission on the road to the Randolph Senior Center's Meals on Wheels site. This clinic was planned to be the first of ten.

Nine dogs and cats belonging to seven low-income seniors, including two veterans, received much needed initial veterinary care. What struck my heart immediately was the tremendous love and affection these owners had for their companion animals and the stress induced by worrying about how to access and pay for necessary veterinary care. Most of the pets are seniors like their people.

The first pair I met was Lee and her chihuahua Luna. Lee's teal-streaked gray hair perfectly matched Luna's snug

teal coat. Lee, a veteran of the Vietnam War, had spent her professional career as a nurse. She eagerly told me how she had found Luna as a puppy on the side of a road in Texas her original home. She adopted Luna, and they've been together ever since. Luna received a thorough check up to see whether she was healthy enough to have a sorely needed dental procedure. X-rays of her heart revealed she needed medication immediately for a few months to reduce her heart's size after which the Mitzvah team would re-evaluate her ability to withstand anesthesia. Deb and Connie have

a lot of experience with senior heart patients and have found that doing their laboratory homework before using anesthesia is invaluable for the long-term success of their patients.

One of our favorite pairs was David and Buffy. David served with the Army and National Guard from 1978-1994. Buffy is a 14-year-old "cocker-poo." David's regular vet had recommended extensive dental work for Buffy that he just could not afford. A complete battery of tests revealed that this "young lady" was in remarkable shape! However, she desperately needed to have all her infected teeth removed. Deb and Connie felt she needed this procedure ASAP so they sent her home with antibiotics; when she returned two days later, 33 teeth were removed. Remarkably, she was

up and eating less than an hour after waking up.

I am grateful for this opportunity to see The Mitzvah Fund team at work and look forward to helping them reach more pets and people in need of their services. If you know someone in need, email: [themitzvahfund1818@gmail.com](mailto:themitzvahfund1818@gmail.com), call (802) 461-3277, or visit [themitzvahfundvt.org](http://themitzvahfundvt.org). You'll learn more about the fund, read stories, and see pictures of the animals and people we care for. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the fund and its services are made possible by individual donations and some foundation and business grants, all of which are tax-deductible and gratefully received. Donations may be made online or by check to PO Box 56, East Montpelier, VT 05651.

Come visit us at the Montpelier Transit Center (Baby Huey's winter clinic location) on most Fridays from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. I guarantee your heart will be lifted.

*—Andrea Stander is a retired non-profit executive who now gets to spend lots more time with her almost 16-year-old dog, Belle, who is also a grateful Mitzvah Fund client.*



photo by Barb LaRosa

(L to R) Buffy, Deb Glottmann, Connie Riggs

**Question:** What's with the ladybug infestation so many of us have experienced? Are they really ladybugs or just look-alikes? Why so many?

photo from [Maine.gov](http://Maine.gov), Maine Dept. of Agriculture Conservation & Forestry



*Variations on a theme.*

**Nona's Answer:** Many of us are hearing about this or have experienced it directly. We got a panicked neighborhood email, asking for information; masses of these colorful ladybug beetles were swarming on the south side of a neighbor's house one warm day this fall and entering the house. How could they get rid of them?

To return to the first two questions, yes, they are really ladybugs, but they are a different kind, an invasive form in at least Europe and the United States, called the Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle. They can bite, but don't sting, can invade homes in large very annoying numbers, and they can emit a bad smell. They do NOT lay eggs in your house; they lay them outside in spring. They are in your house to hibernate, as they can live for two or even three years.

They were introduced here and in Europe from Asia as an agricultural bio-control for aphids. That's how they got here.

To answer the question of why so many is a little more complicated. I like to quote a renowned botanist in the northeast US, Jerry Jenkins, who says "It's just the age of the invasives." But let's look a little closer.

First, there is no all-out war on these creatures, as in many states they are an agricultural godsend and reduce or eliminate some pesticides. Growers of many crops, from pecans to Christmas trees credit these beetles with effective pest control. So, they continue to be encouraged and used as a "natural" bio-control. The fact that they are the fastest insect invasion ever documented is, according to University of Georgia researcher, Richard Hall, also what makes them a good bio-control agent. They propagate multiple generations a year compared to our native lady bug's one, they tolerate a wide range of conditions, and they have a voracious generalist diet. They eat huge numbers of aphids but also feast on other lady bugs—thus eating their competition!

Now here's where we get into the question of what their

larger impact might be. Besides being a disturbing home pest, they also eat the eggs of Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths), including early season caterpillars, a major food of young nestling song birds. And if that's not bad enough, they top it off by including the early instars (caterpillar stages) of Monarch butterflies!

On the other hand, there are questions about the predators of invasive ladybugs, The only predators are apparently parasitoid ichneumon wasps—either native or introduced—which lay eggs inside caterpillars and some beetles. They could provide controls on invasive ladybugs, but not enough is presently known, and it's complicated. If you want to know more on this, look it up; there is not much research, but what exists is interesting.

The other unknowns are huge. First is the general movement of insects around the world, associated with movement of foods, plants, people and even animals from one continent to another. Second is the decimation of insect species globally, due to myriad causes and with unknown outcomes. Hopefully, countering all this are local, state, federal, and global efforts to stall loss—from butterfly gardens to native landscaping to preserving large natural habitats, to limiting use of pesticides and developing safer ones. And highlighting the complexity here brings us right back to the invasive ladybug mess. They were introduced because they were safer than the chemicals being used.

So, what can we do if they show up at our homes, first swarming outside in the fall, then reappearing en masse inside during sunny February and March days? The state entomologist suggests that not enough is known for pest removal companies to have an impact, and we have evidence of that in our neighborhood. Manual removal from your house interior, before they return outside in spring to lay eggs, is the standard course right now. But be careful, when handled roughly they emit long-lasting pheromones (powerful scents) that we can't smell but which tell other ladybugs that this is a good place to hibernate. So, here's what to do:

- Remove the attachment from the tube of the vacuum cleaner.
- Insert most of a tube sock, toe first, into the tube.
- Secure the sock cuff around the outside of the vacuum tube with a strong rubber band.
- Vacuum up the ladybugs into the sock.
- Secure the sock with the rubber band and take outside
- Leave it overnight or longer to freeze.

Good luck!

—Nona Estrin is a mainstay of the EM community and its unofficial naturalist.

## 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

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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

Deborah Fillian  
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

# What is Happening at East Montpelier Elementary School

by Beth Parker

What a fall it has been at EMES! We have welcomed back some of our favorite traditions. From parent information night, to our All-School Hike, to in-person parent/teacher conferences, it has been tremendous to welcome our community back into the building.

Have you heard of our amazing student leadership team? These students volunteer some of their free time to bring joy to our entire school community. Mrs. Christiano and Ms. Gallagher lead this crew through facilitating games at the Monster Mash, collecting recycling, and helping out with special events. Each morning at 9:05 am, a student leader greets the school over the intercom, gives updates on the weather, lunch, and birthdays. Three times each year, this

group also helps to write kindness notes for each student in the school. These are hung on every child's locker or cubby in the hallway. What delight it brings to the students to read these personalized notes. Thank you to our student leaders who model safe, kind, and respectful behavior for our school community.

In December we were excited to welcome back an in-person harvest feast, gifts for giving, and a concert to celebrate our pre-K-4 students.

EMES is always looking for substitute teachers. We encourage you to contact the school if you are interested in learning more about this.

—Beth Parker is a long-time teacher and behavior intervention specialist at EMES



photo by Beth Parker

EMES Student Leadership Team

# Capturing Nature

by Gary Ann Lewis

*Seeking out and photographing the avian creatures in our midst is a very popular pastime, but capturing excellent images is far from easy as local expert, Gary Ann Lewis, explains below.*

Photography literally means photographing light. That doesn't necessarily mean that more light creates a better picture; it's really about the quality of that light. The closer you are to the subject, the better your chances are to capture the essence of it. I'm going to talk about birds here; but of course, what I say applies to all living things.

Taking pictures with cell phones is great fun, and I love that too. But if you want to capture birds in any detail you should have a 300 millimeter (mm) lens. I have an 18-300 mm lens which I use when I go for walks and have been able to capture some good shots of birds flitting about. This lens is pricey, but it will guarantee you at least a fighting chance of getting some nice keepers of those elusive flying creatures. Hobbies can be expensive.

I also take pictures in my backyard where I have a blind set up near my feeders. With feeders full, I wait for the birds to roll in. That takes tons of patience and time. I sometimes use my 18-300 mm lens—but mostly a longer lens with a tripod. Tripods, though annoying, are necessary with longer lenses. It requires more money and patience, and neck issues can result. So, take breaks.

The most appealing way to photograph birds might be

to set up feeders near your windows and shoot through the windows. That requires clean windows (more work) and keeping feeders full with beef suet for the woodpeckers. You will need some kind of blind—using curtains, towels, sheets or any window coverings—with a hole to put the lens through. You also need to be able to see, so leave some space at least on one side. Movement is a problem; you need to be cautious like a fox. I sometimes wear the hated black fly facial net for brief periods of time. Some kind of camouflage cloth around your lens can also be helpful.

There are dozens of excellent YouTube videos to help photographers decide what equipment they need to buy and how to get that shot you want to put on your wall or share with your family and friends. A good resource is *AllAboutBirds.org*—a website of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

All the bird pictures shown here took patience, layers and long underwear, withstanding cold hands, taking many shot angles, and making sure I had my camera with me even when I was only going to the store for errands or otherwise checking out this beautiful place where we are blessed to live. My motto is ABC—always bring camera.

*—Gary Ann Lewis thinks of photography as a means to share her sense of excitement about the wonders of nature that surround us. When someone enjoys her photos, she feels she has succeeded.*

photos by Gary Ann Lewis



Male Cardinal



Hawk Owl



Red Breasted Nuthatch

natural crafter (with hands often busy with a project), and a beautiful telemark skier.

While raising her kids Apple was an active volunteer at EMES and served on the board of various non-profits including Sterling College and the Vermont Women's Fund. Outside of family and friends, her deepest connection is to her family's forest lands in New Hampshire. The conserved property is managed for timber, wild blueberries, wildlife habitat, and recreation. For the last 15 years she's worked in various capacities to continue her family's tradition of ecological stewardship.

Apple and Hobie love skiing—backcountry, downhill, cross-country, whatever. They ski in the neighborhood all around their home, mostly on trails Hobie began cutting (with neighbors' permission) almost 30 years ago. It's a beautiful sight to see them telemark skiing.

They also love to cycle. In warmer weather, whenever Apple has a free hour, she jumps on her gravel bike and rides the dirt roads of East Montpelier while Hobie hits the local single-track on his mountain bike. This past fall they cycled the Great Allegheny Passage and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Towpath. This 335-mile tour started in Pittsburgh and ended in Washington, D.C. Cycling is a great way to see the world.

Apple is a host for Warm Showers, an organization that matches touring cyclists with a free place to sleep and a warm shower. During the pandemic, Henry and Eliza were put to work at the family homestead converting an old musty chicken coop into a spruced-up sleeping cabin now known as "Chez Poulet." Apple hosted cyclists on four occasions this year and greatly enjoys meeting new people.

Thirty years have passed since they arrived in town. Once the youngsters, they are amused to find themselves among the elders of Kelton Road where the spirit of neighborliness persists. Apple's face lights up when she talks about this corner of town where neighbors meet for dog walks on the trail network, the views are remarkable, and people call on each other when they need a hand.

*—Rachel Senechal and her husband, Wayne Hamilton, live on McKnight Road and walk, ski, and snowshoe with their dog, Knickers, on the neighborhood trails with Apple and Hobie*



*Gary Ann sitting in her photography blind waiting patiently for the perfect photo.*



*American Goldfinch*

# TOWN WEATHERVANE

## MARRIAGES

- Melissa Bessett & Robert Watson married in October
- Elizabeth Lawson & Michael Wheeler married in October
- Kate Phillips & Christopher Buckridge married in October
- Gregory Wood & Louisa Olsen married in October

## DEATHS—survivors living in East Montpelier are listed when known

- Lawrence Blakely, Jr., husband of Jacqueline Covey, died in November
- David Cheney, husband of Joyce Cheney and father of Dan Cheney, died in November
- Austin Cleaves died in November
- Jacquelyn Logan died in October
- Lida Mugford, wife of Wayne Mugford, died in November
- Janet Wass, champion of the Adamant Co-op, died in November

## LAND TRANSFERS

*Transfers relative to estate planning or corrective deeds are not included in this listing. For further information, please contact the Town Clerk.*

- Estate of Elizabeth Brown to Tella & Michael Utton, 3.90 acres & dwelling on VT214
- Edward & Lynn Burgess to Daniel & Katie Goldsbury, 7 acres & dwelling on Jourdan Rd.
- Chester & Judith Cookson to Hillary MacGregor & Tristan Stewart-MacGregor, 2.21 acres & dwelling on Cookson Dr.
- Letitia Fox to Karin Cioffi, 4 acres of open land on Sanders Circle
- Raylene Meunier to Hailee May, mobile home on Sandy Pines Rd.
- Megan Seaver to Emily Lowell & Dylan Poginy, mobile home on Sandy Pines Rd.
- Daryl Sherman to Jorana Till, mobile home on Robinson Rd.

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

### October 3, 2022

#### Motions Passed

- to sign and submit the renewal paperwork for the VLCT PACIF membership program
- to approve the changes of assessment to the 2022 As-Billed Grand List submitted by the listers
- to authorize TA Jenkins to sign the change orders for the Morse Farm culvert to the adjusted contract amount of \$142,818 and the Barnes Road culvert to the adjusted contract amount of \$178,462
- to adopt the Town of East Montpelier 2022-23 winter operations plan

### October 17, 2022

#### Motion Passed

- to approve the use of East Montpelier Fire Department capital funds up to \$35k for the purchase of a second power lift for the fire department
- to reconsider and reject the approval of changes of assessment to the 2022 As-Billed Grand List as submitted at the Oct. 3, 2022 selectboard meeting
- to approve the changes of assessment to the 2022 As-Billed Grand List as submitted at the Oct. 17, 2022 selectboard meeting
- to approve the East Montpelier Gully Jumpers' request for road crossings as detailed in their letter to the selectboard of October 13, 2022
- to offer all full- and part-time employees, in accordance with the personnel policy: 1) 100% payment of the MVP Platinum plan; 2) the option of either an MVP or a Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance plan; 3) a stipend equal to 50% of the single MVP Platinum plan in lieu of a health insurance plan
- to adopt a resolution making the town clerk an ex officio voting member of the Cemetery Committee
- to authorize the Cemetery committee to spend up to \$10k on survey work for Doty Cemetery
- to go into executive session at 8:18 pm for personnel considerations; exited at 8:25 pm

### November 7, 2022

#### Motions Passed

- to approve the revised Mack truck price of \$151,400
- to approve the quote from Office Environments to purchase new office furniture and to revisit where the funds will come from in the budget at a later date
- to go into executive session for personnel considerations at 8:05; exited at 8:08 pm

## PLANNING COMMISSION

### OCTOBER 6, 2022

#### Discussion Items

- To discuss zoning update, energy plan, and energy plan public engagement

### October 20, 2022

#### Motion Passed

- to integrate the energy plan into the town plan

### November 3, 2022

#### Discussion Items

- to discuss energy committee member job description, roles and skills, and energy committee recruitment plan

## DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

### NOVEMBER 1, 2022 (U)

#### Motions Passed

- to elect the following officers: Steve Kappel, president; Jeff Cueto, vice president; Kim Watson, recording secretary

## WCUUSD

### OCTOBER 4, 2022

#### Motions Passed

- to enter into executive session at 5:04 pm for the purpose of considering matters related to a personnel complaint, to include Meagan Roy, Pietro Lynn, and student family members; exited at 7:04 pm
- to authorize the chair to sign a letter to the complainant regarding the related personnel complaint that was discussed during Executive Session
- to enter into executive session at 7:07 pm for the purpose of considering a student discipline matter, to include Meagan Roy, Jessica Wills, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Nate

## TOWN WEATHERVANE

- Lovitz, Susan Ognibene, and student family members; exited at 7:31 pm
- to affirm the administration's decision regarding the related discipline in the confidential student matter
- to enter into executive session at 7:44 pm for the purpose of considering a student discipline matter, to include Meagan Roy, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Jessica Wills, Nate Lovitz, and student family members; exited at 8:05 pm
- to affirm the administration's decision regarding the related discipline in the confidential student matter
- to enter into executive session for the purpose of considering a student discipline matter at 8:12 pm to include Meagan Roy, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Jessica Wills, Sarah Volinsky, and student family members; exited at 8:36 pm
- to affirm the administration's decision regarding the related discipline in the confidential student matter

### October 5, 2022

#### Motions Passed

- to enter executive session at 8:39 pm for the purpose of considering a student discipline matter, to include Meagan Roy, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Amy Molina, and student family members; exited at 8:56 pm
- to find that the administration did not abuse its discretion in the related student matter

### October 19, 2022

#### Motions Passed

- to go into executive session at 5:30 pm for the purpose of discussing personnel; exited at 5:48 pm
- to appoint Josh Sevits to the position of school board representative to WCUUSD for Middlesex
- to approve the request to use the [Berlin Quitclaim] deed with the property adjustment language; to allow the town to exchange a piece of this property to a neighboring land owner, and request that this is reviewed by legal counsel to ensure that we are fully protected
- to approve Resolutions 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the VSBA Resolutions

- to have the Board establish criteria that contractors must meet to be included on a selected list of pre-qualified bidders for the 2023 mechanical projects and the 2023 U-32 parking lot and sidewalk replacement project
- to set the calendar year 2023 Dental Insurance Premiums as follows: Single Plan \$552; 2-Person Plan \$1,080; Family Plan \$1,512
- to adopt the Ed Quality goal as presented

### November 2, 2022

#### Motions Passed

- to approve the following appointments: Karen Dyer, LTS East Montpelier Classroom Teacher; Lydia Faesy, U-32 School Nurse LTS (3 days per week); Kathryn "Kate" Biggam, U-32 School Nurse LTS (2 days per week) for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year
- to approve the job description and the rate of pay within the memo from Superintendent Roy: Substitute Teacher Rates & Addition of a Permanent Daily Sub

### November 16, 2022

#### Motions Passed

- to accept the Superintendent Evaluation Rubric
- to provide mail ballot options for the school district for all registered voters for 2023-24
- to accept the working group for the RFP for the visioning and planning
- to accept the budget parameters 1-5, plus 7 as indicated in the memo as discussed
- to approve the use of the capital improvement fund reserved for EMES to pay for the replacement of interior doors for an amount not to exceed \$8,371
- to authorize the Superintendent to award bids for propane and #2 fuel oil on behalf of WCUUSD for FY24
- to authorize a revised total budget from the capital reserve funds, not to exceed \$475,000, for replacing the wood chip boiler at Calais Elementary School with a pellet boiler system

- to approve the hire of Annalissa Kirby Special Education Teacher, Berlin
- to go into executive session at 9:20 pm for the purpose of discussing negotiations and to include Superintendent Roy and Susanne Gann; exited at 9:22 pm

## Job Available: Town Seeking Energy Committee Members

The Planning Commission is starting to write an enhanced energy plan for the town. As part of that work, we are looking to enlarge and revitalize the Energy Committee both to help write the plan and to help implement it.

The Energy Committee is tasked with helping EM meet the town's share of the state's energy goals—increasing energy efficiency, helping both townspeople and town government to reduce the climate impacts of transportation and heating, and potentially helping to increase renewable energy generation and storage in town. The committee has two roles. First, to help write the town's energy plan, and second, to work on the plan's action items on an ongoing basis. Those ongoing activities could include educating community members about options to reduce fossil fuel use, helping access financial assistance to weatherize homes, or researching the feasibility of changing energy use in town buildings or vehicles.

Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Zach Sullivan, Chair of the Planning Commission, at (413) 207-1716 or [zsullivan@gmail.com](mailto:zsullivan@gmail.com).

# County Road Celebration

by Ann Stanton

It was a long summer for many East Montpelier and Calais residents, as County Road underwent major renovation. Cars got dusty from the dirt-road detours. Tires were punctured by sharp stones. At times it looked like nothing at all was happening, or ever would. Then came the day, near the end of October, when the big machines retreated, leaving a satin-smooth finish on County Road. Larry Gilbert and his daughter, Elizabeth, walked down their driveway to survey the scene. Elizabeth mused about how much fun it would be to roller blade on that surface with no traffic to worry about. And an idea was born.

Larry contacted Selectboard member Carl Etnier, Town Administrator Gina Jenkins, and East Montpelier Road Foreman Guthrie Perry. Then he met with the Selectboard on November 7, and they gave the go-ahead. The State Police volunteered to be on hand. Spreading the word happened through Front Porch Forum and friends and neighbors, including Donna Smyers, who invited one set of friends to join her in a run and another set for a bike ride.

On Sunday, November 13, the road was closed from 9:00 am to noon to general traffic from the Center Road

intersection to Templeton Road, a total of more than three miles.

Folks came from all over—not just the townspeople but someone from Brattleboro, and others from Waterbury, Barre and Montpelier. It was hard to know exactly how many, since people came and went all morning long. At 11:30 am, the celebration was 100 people strong. People walked—with dogs, with strollers; they ran, and they biked, roller-bladed, and skateboarded, even picked up litter! Elizabeth created a stand and gave out free cider. People met neighbors they had never known and got reacquainted with others in a whole new way. Everyone enjoyed being outside on the sunny, cool day. It checked all the boxes for Larry and Ann Gilbert: celebration, outdoor recreation, community-building. And it certainly qualified for Vermont's Largest Block Party!

Kudos to Larry—with support from his family, the town, and the community—for having the idea and pulling it off in spectacular fashion!

—Ann Stanton is managing editor of the Signpost



(L) photo by Bob Klein

Enjoying a road closure - for once.

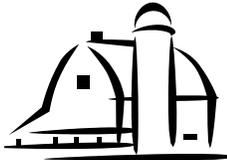


Can't ride like this any old day!



Larry Gilbert, event organizer

(M and R) photos by Jim Eaton



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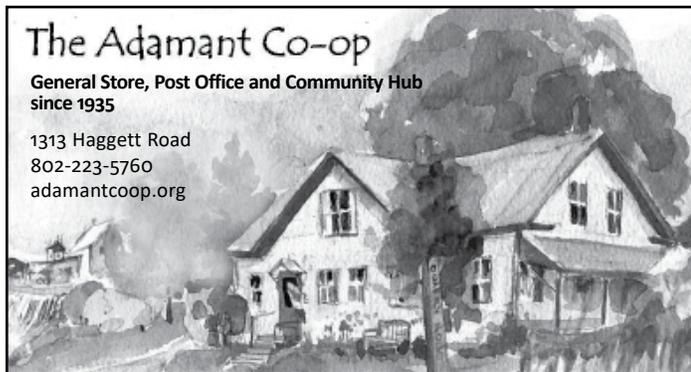
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## IMPORTANT DATES

**Mon. Jan. 16**, Martin Luther King Day, town office closed

**Thurs. Jan. 19**, Petitions Due for articles on Town Meeting Warning, due at town office by 5:00 pm

**Mon. Jan. 30**, Nominating Petitions Due at town office by 5:00 pm

**Wed. Feb. 15**, Town Meeting ballots available

**Mon. Feb. 20**, Presidents' Day, town office closed

**Mon. Mar. 6, 6:30 pm**, Pre-Town Meeting Community Forum at town office building. Remote participation available with participation details on Front Porch Forum and town website

**Tues. Mar. 7, 9:30 am**, Town Meeting Day, EMES, polls open from 7:00 am - 7:00 pm

**Sat. Mar. 25, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**, Rabies Clinic, EMFD, 54 Village Acres, East Montpelier

**SUBMISSIONS FOR  
MARCH-APRIL 2023 SIGNPOST DUE:  
JANUARY 30, 2023**

## ANNUAL DOG LICENSING



It's the new year and East Montpelier dogs are ready to trade last year's boring green ovals for bright blue cars on this year's tag.

Annual dog licensing runs **January 2 - March 31**. Proof

of current rabies vaccination is required. On-time licensing cost for neutered/spayed dogs is \$9; unaltered is \$13. Stop by the town office during regular hours to get a new license and tag, or send a check and current rabies certificate by mail to Town Clerk, PO Box 157 or drop in the secure drop box. A new tag and license will be mailed to you.

Dogs licensed by Mar. 31 are entered into the #1 dog drawing for a chance to win the #001 dog tag, bragging rights, and a prize package from local businesses.

## 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](mailto: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