

EAST MONTPELIER Signpost

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Volume 33 / Number 6

NEWS OF OUR COMMUNITY

July-August 2023

Take Your Pick at Peck

by Merry Schmidt

Once fall is in the air, my two grandsons start asking when we're going to "Dan Bair's" to pick apples. Typically, my husband and I take them on a Wednesday after school for their first crack at finding their favorite varieties. We pull one of the Peck Farm wagons from the farmstand to the orchard, and off they go, in apple heaven.

This year, however, Peck Farm fell victim to a killer frost, resulting in "100% crop loss." Fortunately, there is no long-term damage to the trees. Although despair would seem likely, the Bairs are stunned but not panicking. Dan loves putting fruit that he grows in people's hands. Not being able to do that might be the hardest thing for him this year. But the Bairs believe the settlers of this land had to have had similar experiences.

Leila says, "It's a hurdle. We're learning through this and will come out OK. It's part of our faith." While there will be no "pick-your-own" apples this year, various Vermont orchards will supply Peck Farm with apples this season. So, you can still "pick out" your favorite varieties.

When Dan and Leila were dating, she recalls thinking how nice an orchard would be. A few years after they married, the Bairs visited Burt's Orchard in Cabot with their toddler, who happily picked apples. They found it a

"pleasant family experience." That's when the wheels really started turning.

From the start, the support of Dan's parents was unwavering. His father, Roy Bair, passed away in 2017, but he was instrumental in planting the land; and his mother, Joanne, the current landowner, never doubted the project. The challenging part was deciding what to call the 18 acres

on Sibley Road that has been in the family since 1788. So they went back to the original settler, Nathaniel Peck. Dan is a seventh-generation descendant of the Peck family, so Peck Farm it is, now in its tenth year of operation.

The Bairs are a hard-working, engaging, sincere, look-you-in-the-eye couple. When the stand isn't crowded, I find myself discussing

most anything with Dan, who gives thoughtful, thorough answers. According to Dan, "Everything happens in the fall." He's the one in charge of tending trees, mowing (a full day each week), making cider, resupplying as needed, giving hayrides, and designing the corn maze. Leila and the kids paint the structures inside the maze.

Leila is a mainstay in the "orchard house" on weekends when the farm is busy—answering questions, filling orders,



The Bair Family (l to r): James, Josiah, Leila, Dan, and Abigail with their dog, Ginger.

photo by Terry J. Allen

Peck, continued on p. 7

It is a full-on summer day—84 degrees and sunny—as I write this. Having experienced two hard freezes over the last week that may have decimated a fair bit of Vermont’s native fruit crops this year, I am reminded of the fickleness of the weather; we can do little about it although it affects our lives in enormous ways. I admire the attitude articulated by the Bairs of Peck Farm: “It’s a hurdle. We’re learning through this and will come out OK.” It’s another way of saying that we shouldn’t fret and despair about things over which we have no control; but rather we should determine where we can have an impact and act accordingly.

Each of us in our own lives has to make these decisions all the time. Everything doesn’t go our way; some things we can’t change, but many others we can. Living in a small

town makes that easier than if we lived where government and all it provides is further away from people—and people often seem more distant from each other.

My life is enriched every day by the good will and kindness of friends and neighbors. If I notice something I’d like to see done differently, I know I can discuss those things with selectboard and school board members and many others who see that our day-to-day lives hum along. In other words, local institutions and the people who run them are close to us and enable us to affect fairly easily how things are run. In addition, and perhaps most importantly, I don’t think East Montpelier takes a back seat to any place when talking about neighbors caring about neighbors. It’s a good feeling.

—Edie Miller is a longtime Signpost volunteer.

Happy 100th Birthday, Norma



Norma Raymond is a familiar face in East Montpelier. Until the pandemic, she had never missed a town meeting and always had constructive input to the town budget.

Norma has been an important presence in East Montpelier since she started driving her son and a neighbor to school in her Model A Ford. More kids hopped on board, and soon she was making two trips a day—at no charge. Finally, she was asked to become a school employee and pick up even more kids—at a salary of one dollar daily.

Norma was a most compassionate and successful delinquent tax collector for many years. She remembers that she “tried to work with people individually. Anything was all right...even ten dollars a week was fine so long as they were trying. People thanked me afterwards.” Over the years, her service to the town also included years on the school board, the East Montpelier Bicentennial Committee, and ongoing volunteer work at the elementary school.

Today, Norma is a matriarch of the community with strong ties stretching in all directions. Standing in line with Norma recently, we started chatting with others around us. It turned out they were related to Norma! Norma knows everybody; she knows everything; and she is a strong advocate for social justice.

—Doug and Renee Kievet-Kyler and Rachael Grossman and Paul Erlbaum are close friends and neighbors of Norma.

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Being FIRST

by Michelle A. L. Singer

Here's my challenge: write about a remarkable group of East Montpelier kids, condense 10 years into one article, and avoid sounding like an overly proud parent. I hope to succeed in two out of the three.

In 2013, the Amazon River Dolphins robotics team was formed, competing under FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology,) an international non-profit devoted to STEM learning. Although the team involved many people over the years, a core group of East Montpelier kids has remained at its heart from the beginning. Henry Kasulka, Logan Wood, and Jack Thompson were only in the third grade when Henry's dad, Shawn Kasulka, and his mom, Laura Rappold, formed the team. They were joined by a large group of EMES kids, including my daughter, Ruby. I served as a mentor, a role I've played ever since.

Their first competition is my favorite memory. They had designed their robot and programmed their missions to navigate a standardized field. Their robot and strategy were solid, but the first two runs didn't go well. According to the scoreboard, they were in last place. Then, in their final run, every mission went exactly as planned. As we gathered to watch the scoreboard update, they catapulted from last to first place and won! I'll never forget the moment they jumped up, yelling and cheering.

The team is also judged on a project they create according to the year's theme. Over the years they designed a waterproof cover for transformers, a virtual game to teach kids about endangered animals, a buoy to protect manatees in Florida, and a sink container to store fats and oils instead of putting them down the drain. The projects often involved interviewing community experts at relevant sites like Washington Electric and the Montpelier Wastewater Treatment Plant (a memorable visit). Taking note of their project ideas and creative presentations, judges awarded them a Project Award twice, in 2015 and 2016. They also won a \$5000 Verizon App Challenge grant for the Reuse-It App they designed to connect people to recycling centers, their project in 2015. This resulted in an interview on WCAX and funding for STEM activities at their school. Shawn Kasulka deservedly won the Coach's Award in 2017.

After graduating from EMES in 2017, they merged with the U-32 robotics team, the Robo Raiders, and my son, Jaden, joined too. Their season begins in September with building their robot and programming it to compete on a large, standardized field. Often the robot must move objects from one part of the field to another and navigate terrain. The statewide competition in February tests their robot in the field, directly competing (and cooperating) with other robots to earn points.

When all school activities were suspended for the pandemic, they founded their own non-profit so they could continue to participate. They called their team Bubbert Innovations and competed remotely, as a distinct entity, outside of U-32. Doing outreach work, they brought Vermont teams together when it was most difficult to do so and inspired new teams to form.

One of the core values of FIRST is gracious professionalism, encouraging competition with respect and kindness. From the time they were Amazon River Dolphins, through Robo Raiders and Bubbert Innovations, I watched team members do a lot of work, remain on schedule, innovate, and invent, while always maintaining gracious



photo by Julio Thompson

Amazon River Dolphins at Norwich University, 2013 (l to r): Jack Thompson, Henry Kasulka, Cole Heigis, Jacob McCoy (behind), Logan Wood, Ruby Singer (turned away), Holly Lamson.



photo by Josh Singer

2023 Finalists, Bubbert Innovations, at CVHS, (l to r) Aaron Abrahamson, Henry Kasulka, Wilder Brown, Logan Wood holding Bubbert, Cole Saunders, Jack Thompson, Jesse Batdorff, Jaden Singer, and Adam Greenberg.

FIRST, continued p. 4

professionalism. They invited everyone's ideas fairly. They were good sports when the robot didn't perform the way they had planned. They persevered with humor and stayed connected, with ongoing discussions about time travel and whether a hot dog is a sandwich. Importantly, they were gracious winners when their designs were successful and they made it to the final rounds of the competition, as they did these last two years. In 10 years, they scored in the top three for the robot competition six times and pulled in 12 additional awards for their work off the field.

Watching them present to the judges that first year (they were so small but so poised!), I knew that they were a remarkable group of kids. I was proven right watching them graduate U-32 this June. Henry Kasulka worked tirelessly behind the scenes to keep robotics going and, in the last few years, has been team captain. He will attend Stanford University and explore electrical engineering or computer science on an artificial intelligence track. Jack Thompson

has been the team's chief programmer and was recognized this year for outstanding work with a Control Award. He's heading to Princeton, and is considering studying public policy and neuroscience. In addition to programming and building, Logan Wood was the inspiration behind the team mascot, Bubbert, which infused the team with motivation and design. He will attend the University of Utah to study computer science with an emphasis on game design.

What amazing kids! They deserve every good thing they have earned. They have an open invitation to game night at our house, our favorite off-the-field time together. Meanwhile, I'm left with one question: which came first—were they really smart so they joined robotics, worked hard, and became good teammates? Or did they join robotics, learn a lot, and become exceptional humans? I think it's both.

—Michelle A. L. Singer is a proud East Montpelier mom, obviously.

Behind the Scenes at EMES

As I write this, spring is in the air at EMES. Bulletin boards are decorated with flowers, raindrops, and so much learning! In the classrooms, students have busily prepared for student-led conferences. Every child had the opportunity to share with their parents what they have learned and the work they are proud of.

Behind the scenes, teachers continue to build their professional skills with 90-minute PD blocks each week. These sessions are facilitated by professional development coaches Beth Parker, Arlyn Brucoli, and Dave Willard. Teams look at data, plan curriculum, and continue learning together. This embedded professional opportunity is a gift to the staff and students at EMES.

Most recently, EMES hosted a celebration of learning. This was an evening highlighting the evidence of all that has taken place this spring in the classrooms and the library. In the gym, our 6th graders performed a band concert. This was made possible by parent Kevin Nadzam and long-term sub Emily Lanxner, who worked with students while Ms. Mishkin enjoyed some time with her new baby. The night concluded with the community filling their stomachs with hot dogs and hamburgers, happily prepared and served by the EMES staff and alum staff.

It is wonderful to celebrate what an amazing year it has been at EMES!

—Beth Parker is an instructional interventionist and professional development coach at EMES.

photo by Alicia Lyford



EMES cardboard loom weavings by grades 3 and 4



photo courtesy of EMES

A delicious dinner made by EMES staff

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Green Up Wrap Up

by Chris Racanelli



photo by Chris Racanelli

New Green Up Coordinator Erin Borland

years and hosting us in the parking lot and cafeteria.

This year, Erin Borland took over as coordinator and carried the baton well. She also revived the Green Up lunch. With donations from McKnight Farm, Hunger Mountain Co-op, The Manghis' Bread, and Red Hen Bakery and the help of volunteers, cookie makers, and food preparers—Rachael Grossman, Barbara Ploof, Gina Jenkins, Ginny Callan, Susan Stephen, Mark Stephen, Anna Saxman, Martha Allen, Sue Racanelli, Helen Sullivan, Kate Rader, Diana Fielder, Teresa Doyle—she put together a lunch that was independent of town funding.

Generous businesses in East Montpelier gave a hand by putting up posters and/or dispensing bags. Dudley Store has been the centerpiece for distribution, and we also had Fox Market, East Montpelier Elementary School, North Country Federal Credit Union, East Montpelier Town Office, Orchard Valley School, East Montpelier Post Office, East Montpelier Home Center, and Fontaine Forestry and Millworks, not to mention Bragg Farm and Morse Farm who also contributed creemee coupons for our volunteers.

My hat's off to the crews driving around the neighborhoods in their personal trucks and trailers to pick up large items and tires scattered around and to those at the EMES site collecting bags from cars, separating recyclables and deposit bottles from trash—Bob Onne, Ron Baker, Nick Van Den Berg, Matt Borland, Mike Duane, Paul Erlbaum, Martha Allen, and Tim Jerman. And thanks to all of you who walked around, green bags in hand, picking up litter off our roads and keeping the Green Up tradition proud.

We had a good year, snatching almost a ton of trash from neighborhoods, 110 tires, metal, TVs, and toxic waste. Many thanks to the road crew and Guthrie Perry for bringing three trucks to the site and hauling away the day's work.

Thank you one and all for making Green Up Day the success it was. Erin will see you next year!

—Chris Racanelli was the enthusiastic leader and advocate for greening up East Montpelier for many years. His efforts are greatly appreciated. As importantly, he has found an equally capable and enthusiastic leader to take his place.

For the Birds

by Ann Stanton

photo by Michael Dougherty, VTDigger



Nona Estrin in her natural habitat.

Summer is here: we've survived the black flies; strawberries are happening; the vegetable gardens look promising. Time to be outdoors! And who better as a companion and guide than Nona Estrin, our naturalist-in-residence.

I met Nona at her home and toured its magical grounds of natural vegetation, flowers, shade and wild plum trees meant for the birds, and, of course, vegetables. Not all of us can grow vegetables, though. For example, I live surrounded by trees and ledge, sorely lacking sun. What, then, is a good excuse for being outside? Try checking out bird life.

"How did you get started with birds?" I asked Nona. She started as a kid, she explained, raising baby birds. In those

days, there weren't as many binoculars or books about birds; you just had your eyes and your ears. She watched the local blue jays feeding their young, mostly insects. When a wild storm blew to the ground a nest holding babies, blind and lacking feathers, she undertook to rear them. Considering herself a partner with the bird parents, she fell in love with birds. Her childhood was an orgy of watching, listening, learning, and now, for many years, journaling and sketching the glorious abundance of nature.

Maybe this story belonged in our previous issue, since the bird-nesting season is over. Now, birds are up in the forest, harder to see. But these days we do have binoculars, and looking for birds gives us an excuse to poke around. Nona notes that you don't have to go to Costa Rica; there's pleasure to be found in the familiar—learning what birds live among us, what they like and don't like, when and where they are comfortable, what their calls are.

Should we be feeding the birds to attract them down from those treetops? Even more important than food, says Nona, is drinking water. Decorative bird baths are fine but may be too deep for small birds like warblers and too exposed for woodland birds. Try a variety of water sources; she suggests: shallow and on the ground or in a protected spot. Plant saucers are perfect. Empty and refill them often, to keep water clean and discourage mosquitoes. Bird feeders are a bit more problematic. For example: bears. Ahem...! Although we in Central Vermont may not currently be plagued with bird flu, keep an eye on North Branch Nature

sketches by Nona Estrin



Turkey In Winter



Northern Orioles in Apple Tree

Center and other such sites to make sure bird feeding is safe. Clean the feeder! And consider plantings to feed birds: coneflowers, sunflowers, and fruit bushes. Don't use insecticides, which not only kill bees and butterflies, but also the insects that can be prime bird food.

So, here's our challenge to *Signpost* readers: learn at least five bird songs and identities this summer. Download the Merlin app from the Cornell Ornithology Lab onto your phone, which pinpoints songs. Borrow or buy a copy of Murin and Pfeiffer's *Birdwatching in Vermont*, with advice for beginners and detailed information about which birds are likely to be where and when. Don't be discouraged; we humans are hardwired for observing the environment. Once you become attuned, you'll add seeing and listening to your walks, hikes, bike rides, and jogging. And you'll be amazed at how much life has gone previously unnoticed all around you.

The beauty and bounty that surround us deserve our attention and care. Interactions between humans, birds—really, all of nature—are in flux. Some creatures are succeeding—working with and around human habitation and thriving. Others are fading away as development encroaches, temperatures shift, and weather events disrupt habitat. After talking to Nona, my motto for this summer is "Be Aware and Care."

—Ann Stanton is managing editor of the *Signpost*. She and her husband, David Connor, live on Center Road.



Blue Jays in pre-mating flock

Peck, continued from p. 1



and working the cash register. During the week, she's a stay-at-home mom who homeschools their three children: Abigail (12), James (10), and Josiah (6). Their dog, Ginger (3), completes the nuclear family.

Since it's a true family farm, you'll find the children helping. James and Josiah pick up clean fallen apples for making cider. Abigail makes the cider donuts. Those sell out every weekend during peak season, the last two weeks of September and the first two of October. Two other treats are maple Sno-cones and cider donut ice cream sundaes, topped with the family's own maple syrup.

Peck Farm orchard covers eight acres and will grow to be about ten. It produces 15 varieties of apples but will end up with nearly 20. The best seller is Honeycrisp (40% of sales), followed by Blondee, a premium apple that grows well—except for this year, of course. Leila's and Josiah's favorite is Empire (mine, too), Dan's is Golden Russet, and Abigail's and James's top pick is Blondee. A favorite of "Old Vermonters" is Macintosh.

Dan presses apples for both sweet and hard cider. The latter is currently stored in tanks, ready to bottle this fall. The resulting brew is of two types: Orchard Blend—like a wine, in that it reflects the season and year; and single varietals called First Light and King Son.

While the orchard won't produce apples this year, there will be a corn maze, hayrides, and, perhaps, some musical events. In the fall they'll sell pumpkins and gourds. For the past three years, the Bairs have hosted "Trunk or Treat" on Halloween. Local folks decorate the trunks of their cars, then children go trunk to trunk to gather their treats.

Rain or shine, temperate or extreme, the Bair family makes the most of it. They love chatting with locals and tourists alike, and they truly appreciate the community support during the good years and the occasional not-so-good year. Dan's goals are "bringing families together, creating memories, and putting your phone away—except for taking pictures, of course." Peck Farm is a happy place to visit, to play, to work. In Leila's words, "It's truly a family-run, family-owned business that caters to families." Amen to that.

—Merry Schmidt is a member of the *Signpost* editing team and is an avid gardener.

P.S. Leila shared this positive news just as the *Signpost* went to press: "Just learned that we actually have some apples growing! Not enough, but we didn't lose it all like we thought."

MARRIAGES

- Elizabeth Killian and Peter Moore married in May

DEATHS—survivors living in East Montpelier are listed when known

- Gregory Combs, husband of Nancy, died in April

LAND TRANSFERS

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

- Cherry Tree LLC to Ashley Davis, 4.22 acres on Deerfield Ln
- Helen M. Clark Living Trust to Seth Gardner, 5.75 acres on Codling Rd
- Fairmont Farms to Dana and Clara Ayer, 11.90 acres on Foster Rd
- Heather Grant to Mark Poulin, a mobile home on Sandy Pines Rd
- Malone Packard Road Properties to SC Packard LLC, 12/10 acres commercial property on Packard Rd
- Sherwood Morse & Susan Shattuck to John & Christine Beling, 0.94 acre on Cummings Rd
- Sherwood Morse & Susan Shattuck to Brendan & Caryn Everett, 3.81 acres on Cummings Rd
- Linda Shatney to Vermont State Housing Authority, a mobile home on Mugford Rd

The following are excerpts from minutes of EM's and WCUUSD's governing boards. Complete minutes are on the town and school websites. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings were held in person with a remote participation option available.

SELECTBOARD

April 3, 2023

Motions Passed

- to accept the rbTech bid for a new phone system for the town office
- to accept the Local Emergency Management Plan with the change to set the emergency spending limit for the selectboard chair at \$100,000
- to approve curb cut permit 23-005 on Sanders Circle in conjunction with the construction of a new home and includes construction of a culvert minimum 18 inches in diameter and 30 feet long

- to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters: entered at 8:11 pm and exited at 8:27 pm

April 17, 2023

Motion Passed

- to accept the Washington County Sheriff's Department contract at a level of approximately 20 hours per month through June 30, 2023
- to commit up to \$30,000 to match monies contributed to Four Corners Schoolhouse by the Vermont Arts Council for mold remediation
- to appoint Alison Underhill and Kimberly Meeks to the Funding Committee and Rachael Grossman and Renee Kievit-Kylar to the Emergency Planning Committee
- to vote for Mr. Etnier [to represent EM at WEC Annual Meeting with voting authorization] and authorize TA Jenkins to complete and submit the ballot on behalf of the town
- to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters: entered at 8:48 pm and exited at 9:05 pm
- to appoint Zoe Christiansen to an open seat [on the selectboard] for one year of 3-year position until Town Meeting 2024

May 3, 2023

Motions Passed

- to authorize TA Jenkins to accept the revised quote to remove ash trees [on Murray, Bliss and Barnes Roads] at an additional cost of \$3,134
- to approve submission of notice of intent [to participate in FY23 Municipal Roads Grant-in-Aid Program] and authorize Vice Chair Etnier to sign the letter

May 15, 2023 (U)

Motions Passed

- to approve payment to JM Yard Services at the rate of \$30 per hour for cemetery maintenance on provisional basis to be replaced by the fee for the annual contract if approved at the June 5 Selectboard meeting
- to accept town mowing contract renewal with Creative Visions, LLC
- the Board agreed that adding reflective strips to the signposts and reinstalling the Towne Hill Road sign [at the intersection with US2] were easy steps

the town could take to make the intersection more visible

- to approve the following appointments: DRB—Nik Khosla; Emergency Planning Committee—Rachael Grossman, Patty Giavara, Renee Kievit-Kylar, and Lydia Fasey; Future Projects Committee (ARPA)—Ginny Callen, Ed Deegan; CV Fiber Rep.—Tom Fisher
- to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters: entered at 8:00 pm and exited at 8:34 pm. No action taken.

PLANNING COMMISSION

April 6, 2023

Motions Passed

- to designate Deirdre Connelly as recording clerk

April 20, 2023

- conversation re: Drinking Water Funding with guests from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

May 4, 2023

- conversation re: Village Wastewater Funding

May 18, 2023 (U)

- timeline for Energy Plan, Town Plan, potential for Energy Plan updates

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

December 6, 2022

Motions Passed

- to accept preliminary and final plans for application #22-074 as submitted by Sherwood Morse, Elliott Morse, and Susan Shattuck for a proposed 3-lot subdivision of an existing 67-acre parcel which lies on both sides of Cummings Rd
- to approve a boundary line adjustment for John and Christine Beling's parcel as outlined in application #22-073

WCUUSD

March 29, 2023 (virtual only)

Motions Passed

- to enter into executive session for the purpose of considering matters related to the discipline of a student to include Meagan Roy, Alicia Lyford, Michael Sherwin and student family members: entered at 7:01 pm and exited at 7:39 pm

TOWN WEATHERVANE

- to affirm the administration's decision on student discipline
- to enter executive session for the purpose of considering matters related to the discipline of a student to include Meagan Roy, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Jessica Wills, Christine Fitch, and student family members: entered executive session at 7:42 pm and exited at 8:08 pm
- to affirm the administration's decision on student discipline
- to enter into executive session for the purpose of considering matters related to the discipline of a student to include Meagan Roy, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Jessica Wills, and student family members: entered at 8:17 pm and exited at 8:36 pm
- to affirm the administration's decision on student discipline

April 5, 2023 Community Forum on Community Engagement/Strategic Planning

Motions Passed

- to move to executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations to include Susanne Gann, and Scott Cameron: entered at 7:45 pm and exited at 8:47 pm. No further action.
- to extend the leave request for Noelle Drown from May 22, 2023 to June 30, 2023 with a return date of August 2023

April 18, 2023

Special Board Meeting (virtual only)

Motions Passed

- to appoint Maggie Weiss to the Policy Committee
- to approve the use of the capital improvement fund reserved for EMES to pay for improvements to the playground, cabin, and path for an amount not to exceed \$43,183
- to adopt policy C5 on Weapons and Firearms
- to adopt policy E20 on Building Use
- to approve the hire of Sarah Cousins, SLP for the school year 2023-2024
- to approve these rehires: Olga Benoit, U-32 math interventionist; Lindsay Wright, U-32 social studies; Karen Chessier, Berlin school counselor; Nancy Robinson, Berlin health; Annalissa Kirby, Berlin special

education ; Uriah Proctor-Mattingly, Calais school-wide student support services

- to approve these long-term substitutes for 2022-23 school year: Richard Terrien, U-32 LTS music; Clarissa Gold, U-32 LTS science Aiden Maher, U-32 LTS physical education/health
- to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter: entered at 9:20 pm and exited at 9:25 pm
- to authorize Board Chair Flor Diaz Smith to engage in negotiations with Superintendent Meagan Roy for an extended contract, with the understanding that the final product will be presented to the Board for final approval

May 3, 2023

Motions Passed

- to accept new teacher nominations for 23-24 school year. Daniel Velez, Berlin literacy interventionist; Samantha Mishkit, U-32 science; Karla Eberlein, EMES intensive needs special educator; Liz Bevins, EMES instructional interventionist and kindergarten teacher; Maryellen Munday, Rumney school-wide student support specialist
- to accept the resignation of Tess Knepp, U-32 Middle School science teacher and Michael Abadi, U-32 special education teacher with appreciation for their dedication to our students
- to accept the extended leave of absence request from Benton Larrow, Doty interventionist
- to enter into executive session for the purpose of considering matters related to the discipline of a student to include Meagan Roy, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Amy Molina, and student family members: entered at 7:40 pm and exited at 8:05 pm
- to affirm the administration's decision on student discipline

May 24, 2023 (U)

Motions Passed

- to enter into executive session for the purpose of considering matters related to the discipline of a student to include Meagan Roy, Steven

Dellinger-Pate, Cari Wilson, and Jessica Wills: entered at 5:53 pm and exited at 6:23 pm

- to affirm the administration's decision
- to approve the request to fly the Pride flag
- to adopt the recommended Education Quality Committee Charge from the board packet
- to adopt the recommended system for monitoring student achievement
- to authorize the superintendent to sign all contracts and accept grants on behalf of Washington Central Unified Union School District effective throughout FY24
- to adopt policy C70 on Seclusion and Restraint
- to approve these new hires: Richard Terrien, U-32 music; Noah Fink, U-32 special education, Sarah Fisher Snow, U-32 special education/Zenith Program; Dakota Garrow, physical & health education; Ainsley Burroughs, Calais classroom teacher; Danielle Kent, EMES SLP; Alexander Donelson, U-32 math; Jason Woodard, U-32 science; Jennifer Chambers, Calais/Berlin special education, Scott Benerofe, U-32 science
- to approve the retirement of Julie Kiefer, U-32 math teacher, with thanks for her service to our district
- to approve the rehire of Honi Bean Barrett
- to accept these resignations, with thanks: James Warden, Calais classroom teacher; Stacey Rupp, Calais librarian/technology integrationist; Erin Wysolmerski, U-32 science; Jessica Abisla, Doty nurse
- to approve these extended leaves of absence: Kimberly McKellar, U-32 and Mary Carpenter, Calais
- to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations, because prior knowledge would put the board at a disadvantage, and to invite Susanne Gann and Superintendent Roy
- to go into executive session for a personnel issue
- the board authorized the chair to sign a contract with the superintendent as discussed

Know Your Trees? The Town Needs You.



The East Montpelier Selectboard will be appointing a Deputy Tree Warden to work with Tree Warden Paul Cate on the stewardship and management of trees on town property (except the town forest) and in our road rights-of-way. Interested persons should first contact Paul (802-223-6466) to learn more about this new position and its duties and responsibilities. The selectboard will be giving preference to candidates who are town residents and are arborists or foresters or have other backgrounds and experience in tree management. With regard to roadside

trees, the Deputy Tree Warden will work closely with Road Foreman Guthrie Perry and the Resilient Roads Committee. The town presently has a proactive program in place to remove hazard trees along our roads, as well as ash trees that are expected to become infested with emerald ash borer. The position is compensated via annual stipend.

Additional information on tree wardens is available through the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program website at: vtcommunityforestry.org/resources/vermont-tree-wardens-0

Paulie's Recipe Vegetable Pasta Combo

INGREDIENTS

3 T butter	1 pkg. (9 oz.) frozen green beans or any vegetable cooked tender crisp
¾ cup chicken broth	1 cup cooked shell pasta
1 T Dijon mustard	1 3 oz. can mushrooms, drained
1 T cornstarch	1 small tomato, chopped
½ t basil	¼ cup sliced black olives
¼ t garlic powder	
dash of pepper	

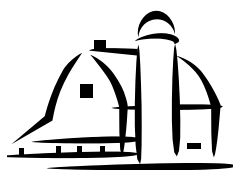


Comment from
Paulie Coburn:

The sauce is delicious. Another option is to add shrimp or chicken to the dish. Can be eaten cold as a salad.

DIRECTIONS Melt butter in medium saucepan. Stir in broth, mustard, cornstarch, basil, garlic powder, and pepper. Cook until bubbling and stir often. Add beans, pasta, and mushrooms. Heat. Just before serving, gently stir in tomatoes and olives. Heat to serving temperature. Serves: 4

Recipe was contributed by Dolores D'Amico to the Country Kitchen Favorites, compiled by the East Montpelier Fire Department Auxiliary in 1978.



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IMPORTANT DATES

Tues. July 4, Town Office closed for Independence Day

Mon. July 17, 5:00 pm, E. Montpelier and Calais Historical Societies will meet at the Old West Church for a brown bag picnic followed by a tour of the Calais Poor Farmhouse and nearby Town Forest. Bring a lawn chair. Walking shoes suggested. Rainy weather alternative will be shared if needed via email/FPP.

Mon. Aug. 21, 5:00 pm, E. Montpelier and Calais Historical Societies will meet at the Dwinell Homestead at 4610 Rte. 14 in E. Calais for a brown bag picnic and tour of the Homestead. Bring a lawn chair. No rain date needed. Contact Sandal Cate for information about either EMHS event: sandal.cate@gmail.com

Note: Tax bills will be mailed in mid- to late-August

SUBMISSIONS DUE

July 31, 2023

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2023 SIGNPOST



photo by Gary Ann Lewis

Thank you for your support

NANCY COUCH

MARTHA HAYNES

GINGER AND RICK HOPKINS

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

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