

# EAST MONTPELIER Signpost

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Volume 34 / Number 3

NEWS OF OUR COMMUNITY

January-February 2024

## Art for the Fun of It

by Ann Stanton



photo by Alex Brown

*Janet Macleod's Snow Queen installation on the front porch of the Adamant Coop.*

Walking into Janet Macleod's comfortable sitting area cum studio, I bypassed a giant old-fashioned sled holding a white figure with a painted-on face. "Oh, that's the Snow Queen," explained Janet, "and there's a child over there." She has been working on these two figures for five months — getting them ready for display on the porch of the Adamant Coop.

Once again, Janet is making magic with papier-mâché. That's how I would describe Janet's work: magic. Seemingly out of nowhere appear wonderful, playful creatures in windows and on parade, full-sized cardboard figures

in colorful summer dresses lining up for a Friday night cookout, an Italian vine-covered stairway to the Coop upstairs. And always by my desk—perennial presents for my adult children—the evocative pictures on the Adamant Coop calendar with a new vista every month.

Actually, some *Signpost* readers may know Janet's art from the very beginning days of this publication. Early issues had small sketches scattered throughout. Until quite recently, her drawing of a road alongside a tall tree with a signpost in the foreground headed up each issue. That drawing is with us still at the address block.

"How did you get started making art," I asked. Art was the family business, she replied. Janet's mother was a fashion designer who turned her hand to family and child-rearing, employing her artistic skills by teaching art at the Center School, leading 4H, and "always making stuff." That's also how Janet describes her own process: making stuff, playing around, having fun. "Fun, not focus," was one friend's description of her works. Janet laughs, quoting her husband Spike, "I have more confidence than information," so she's always experimenting, trying things out, and learning.

She was, however, focused enough on art as a youngster that she resisted her high school counselor's push to go to a women's liberal arts college and instead enrolled at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). Her Vermont-y dress code—sandals and jeans, as opposed to nylons and heels—belied her mother's fashion design path; she declared a major in painting.

We are delighted to re-introduce Janet Macleod in this introduction to "Artists in Residence" which we hope to make a regular feature of the January issue. For more of her work, be sure to check out the Snow Queen installation at the Adamant Coop and to buy her 2024 calendar at the store. Happy viewing!

*—Ann Stanton is a long-time Signpost volunteer who lives in East Montpelier Center with her husband.*

## Earth, Water, Wind, Fire, and Hope

This year, planet Earth has certainly experienced more than its fair share of water, wind, and fire. Our Capital City and surrounding areas, still aching from the July floods, have been further devastated by fires and sporadic crime this past fall. Such stressful events have tested our collective resilience. What can we do to make 2024 a better year for all?

Hopefully, we, as individuals, can take steps to curb climate change by reducing our carbon footprints. And in times of trouble and sadness we can also reach out to our friends and neighbors through acts of kindness.

With the holidays behind us and a long winter ahead, let us keep the season of giving in our hearts. Think about how you can make someone's day warmer and brighter—weather or not. Check in with your neighbors, deliver a plate of cookies, invite someone over for a cup of tea, contact those who are homebound or alone.

We may not be able to change the weather or prevent all disasters or difficulties on any given day, but we can make someone's day better this winter by simply reaching out or lending a hand. A line from the song, "Into this Night" by Patti Casey, holds true: "Winter knows a kindness all its own."

—Merry Schmidt is a loyal Signpost volunteer.



Janet Macleod's illustrations from the 2024 Adamant Coop Calendar.

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# Art, a Lifelong Passion

by Carolyn Pastore

photo by Carolyn Pastore



*Sharon Peck at work in her studio.*

and even to Paris; but she continued sketching in her spare time. Over the years as she moved around, she always missed Vermont. When an opportunity to retire came along, she took it and followed her heart back to Vermont, settling in East Montpelier.

Life on Coburn Road soon led to a second career raising goats and making goat cheese at Willow Moon Farm, the former Tofani property. Trading Chanel suits for overalls and barn boots left little time for sketching. Sharon used her artistic talents to design a logo for her goat cheese business and to guide several house renovations. After fifteen years in the goat business, Sharon was ready for a less-demanding lifestyle. She was finally able to devote more time to her art.

Native Vermonter, Sharon Peck, born in the small town of Londonderry, has returned to Vermont and taken up her passion for art. As a child she loved animals and drawing. By middle school she was taking art classes, but art was just a hobby. For many years a career in business management took her to various cities across the United States

She had begun her early painting with still life and landscape paintings but then moved on to pen and ink sketches of all kinds of animals, including chickens, goats, and her dogs. After exploring using pastels, watercolors, and oils, she found her love of oil painting.

When asked what led her to painting pet portraits for others, Sharon said she was asked by a friend to paint her dog; that person told a friend, and so word of her talent spread. Her animal portraits are not limited to dogs, however. She has also painted cats, horses, chickens, and, of course, goats. As a strong advocate for animal rescue, Sharon offered to paint a pet portrait as a raffle prize for Potters Angels, a local rescue group, raising about \$1500!

I wondered about the process Sharon uses to paint a lively creature like a dog or cat. First, she explained, she likes to meet the dog, if possible, getting a feel for its personality. Next, she takes lots of photos or uses ones provided by the owner. She tries to observe the pet and owner to see their special connection. She also looks at where the dog likes to be for ideas about the background in the portrait. She sometimes includes a favorite toy or other object. Following her research, she's ready to start sketching. Then using her sketches and the photos, the painting begins. Seeing several of her paintings, I was stunned by the eyes of the dogs and how vibrant each portrait was.

As we ended our conversation, I asked Sharon if she had any other thoughts about her dog portraits. She responded, "It's really important for me to capture what's special about the dog or cat so that the owner sees the love they share."

*—Dog lover, Carolyn Pastore, is a retired EMES teacher and long-time Signpost volunteer.*



*Just a few of the many pet portraits painted by Sharon Peck.*

# Crows!

by Nona Estrin

A flock of questions about crows flew in as the season changed. Although I have never surveyed the literature on crows, like those who raised these questions, I am an observer of these birds over the years and have followed up on these specifics:

**QUESTION about regular visits from a couple of crows all summer, then in October a larger group, often ten or more, show up. Were they preparing to migrate?**

ANSWER: Crows are not a migratory species, BUT they may have what is called an elevation migration pattern. For example: from a summer breeding range that is over 1,000 feet of elevation to lower, larger farms or towns in winter, with slightly better food sources and warmer average winter temperatures. So, their total migration could be anywhere from no migration at all to perhaps a hundred miles or more, to a state just south of their summer breeding range: for example, from the hill farms in the North to northern Massachusetts or from the NEK hill farms to larger farms in Central Vermont.

Interesting to remember that as recently as the 1990s there was a saying in our area that when the crows returned to the hill farms again, winter was over. That was us. We were considered the hill farms and large farms in Southern Vermont or the Connecticut river valley were where crows wintered.

**QUESTION about large flocks of crows either in fields or at the end of the day, flying somewhere. What are they doing? Where are they going?**

ANSWER: Crows have worked out a daily pattern. Here in Washington County, just after dawn they fly out to the farms to glean leftover grain from the large fields at Fairmont and other farms or to Vermont Compost Company. In the evening, just before dusk, they make the return trip to a communal roost. They arrive in the vicinity of the roost after flying, in long unobtrusive streams, to the general area of the roost. There they alight and then, flying again in streams a few at a time, they travel from place to place, calling to one another. Finally, just before dark, they begin to swoop down into a small area where they quietly pack together

on trees in a sheltered spot. There, they will hope to spend the night undisturbed. I know this because when they first started wintering here, after small farming went out and farming became a 600-head-of-cattle, large-business, with large fields, I spent one winter following them at dusk to see where they went. Their daily routes still go approximately over our home, just outside of Montpelier, down into the protected valleys of the Capital City.

**QUESTION about how crows survive the intense cold of winter.**

ANSWER: All birds have what is called a nictitating membrane over their eyes—like an inner transparent eyelid. This protects their eye when flying into cold sub-zero winds, as crows might when flying west to Montpelier at the end of a cold day. Also, they have a complicated shunting of blood

from the feet and legs to the body such that body warmth is conserved, especially at night. Their communal roosting in protected spots and their moving to warmer environs with more plentiful food in winter are likely key to survival as well.

**QUESTION about whether you can feed crows in winter. What do they eat?**

ANSWER: There are no laws against feeding crows. Although we have only a couple or three that appear at our house each February and don't leave until December, I am curious what others experience. I leave a small handful of sunflower seeds on top of the wooden compost bin most winter days. They generally find it within an hour if they are not waiting in the woods near the house.



*Crows pair off in late winter. Painting by Nona Estrin.*

**QUESTION about whether we have ravens here or crows. Do they behave similarly in winter?**

ANSWER: Great topic for another Creature Feature. But I will say—yes: we have ravens and crows. Ravens are a species that is expanding its range, from north to south, and from the mountains into our towns and villages. These clever, observant birds have made this huge transformation in the last 20 or 30 years.

*—Nona Estrin is our unofficial East Montpelier naturalist who will answer all our questions about East Montpelier's non-human creatures.*

## Town Offices

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Fri 9 AM –12 PM

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### **Town Administrator**

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manager@eastmontpeliervt.org

### **Fire Permits**

EMFD 225-6247

### **First Constable**

Jon Boucher 917-4855

### **Animal Control Officers**

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Assistant: Amber Perry 498-5140

### **Listers**

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Ross Hazel  
Chris Racanelli  
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listers@eastmontpeliervt.org

### **Health Officer**

Ginny Burley 272-4045

### **Service Officer**

Rachael Grossman 223-3177

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sethbmgardner@hotmail.com  
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Scott Hess Jon Jewett

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sjkappel@gmail.com

### **WCUUSD Board**

Amelia Contrada, acontrada@u32.org  
Flor Diaz Smith, fdiazsmith@u32.org  
Zach Sullivan, zsullivan@u32.org

### **State Representative**

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echapin@leg.state.vt.us

# Town Meeting: March 5<sup>th</sup>

*Though Town Meeting itself is in the future, plans for the activity require action now. If you are thinking about running for office, do it! The town needs your involvement. It requires the collection of signatures from your neighbors and there is a January deadline. Likewise, if there's a topic you would like to see discussed or decided at Town Meeting, now is the time to petition the selectboard to include your topic on the Town Meeting Warning. Deadlines and specific numbers of signatures required on these petitions may be found in the calendar on page 12 of this issue.*

At this year's Town Meeting, voters will be asked to voice their opinions on four separate ballots.

## 1. **Town ballot: Election of Town Officials and Town Budget**

We will elect the following officers by Australian (paper) ballot

- Town Moderator: one 1-year term
- Selectboard Member: one 3-year term
- Selectboard Member: one 2-year term
- Selectboard Member: 2 years of 3-year term
- Lister: one 3-year term
- Auditor: one 3-year term
- Planning Commissioner: three 3-year terms

Please remember that East Montpelier holds a hybrid Town Meeting. This means that while ballots are sent out to allow voting on the general budget and elected officials, voters must attend Town Meeting in person to vote on several appropriation articles from various community organizations and any other items that may be on the Warning. Please refer to your Annual Report for specific information regarding these articles.

## 2. **Washington Central Union Unified School District ballot**

- School Board Director, East Montpelier: two 3-year terms

## 3. **Central Vermont Career Center ballot**

No open offices for our town this year. Voters will be asked to approve representatives from other member towns as well as the annual district budget.

## 4. **Presidential Primary ballot**

This year at Town Meeting, we will be voting in a presidential primary. This is the only time over a four-year period when you are asked to declare a party to receive a ballot. The two parties that have qualified and are participating in this year's Vermont presidential primary are the Democratic and Republican parties. The election official will give you the ballot for the party you declare. If you do not wish to declare a party, you will not be able to vote in the presidential primary. Please contact Town Clerk, Rosie Laquerre, if you have questions about this election.

At the time of this writing in late November, it is unknown whether ballots for the town and/or school elections will be automatically mailed to voters. You can request absentee ballots after January 2, 2024 by contacting the Town Clerk's office at 802-223-3313 or via email at [clerk@eastmontpeliervt.org](mailto:clerk@eastmontpeliervt.org).



# Fairmont Friendship Club: A Place to Build Bonds and Memories

by Bonnie Hall and Barbara Ploof

The Friendship Club was formed in March 2023 when one of Fairmont Farm's housing units became available. "The living room has beautiful views; it is spacious and airy with natural light streaming in from the many windows. It is one of my favorite spots," says Bonnie Hall who decided to use this space for the Friendship Club, an adult respite care service.

Bonnie had been the main caregiver for her parents and then did private caregiving for several years. Through these experiences she was aware of the need for caregivers as well as the need for relationships, socializing, and friendships among those who receive care. She also recognized another important need: respite for the loved ones who do the caregiving. One person said, "I became a full-time caregiver, 24/7. When Bonnie proposed the Friendship Club, I was thrilled. Having a day when I know Dave will be in a safe place, with interesting things to see and do, and great company is a life saver for both of us. And he gets a break from me!"

The Friendship Club meets on Thursdays from 10 am-5 pm. Members engage in a variety of activities. Sometimes they do arts and crafts focused on the season, holiday, or any reason. They have created picture collages of their time together, made Easter baskets, and painted pumpkins. They spend as much time outdoors as they can manage, utilizing the sunny deck and back patio as well as other places on the farm. Golf cart rides around the working dairy farm are always a highlight, visiting the ponies, cows, calves, and sheep. Cort Richardson and Ginny Callan lead them in Bone Builders exercises for 30 minutes of stretching, balancing, and strength-building every week. They read together, listen to music, and welcome community members who share their skills and interests.

Here is an example of a typical day. Everybody arrives at 10 am and settles in with a snack of muffins, bars, cookies, and hot chocolate. Then there is time to chat about their lives as they sit together in the living room. Cort and Ginny arrive to lead the Bone Builders program, and then it is time to prepare for lunch. John and Donna Hall, Bonnie's in-laws, arrive with the food and the meal is enjoyed together. (Special food considerations are taken into account.) "We love being in a friendly and accepting place where there is so

much laughter, fun, and sharing," say John and Donna.

After lunch a special activity is offered, often with a volunteer from the community. This can be music, arts and crafts, storytelling, or whatever a community member has brought. Then an outing may be planned. Besides the much-enjoyed option of visiting various parts of the farm, they have made special community outings such as a trip to Morse Farm for creemees, to Plainfield Hardware for plants for the flower boxes, or to a pond for fishing.

Each day is different, and flexibility allows for drop-in visitors including children to participate in the camaraderie. Bonnie's sister, Pam Rich, is a regular helper and John and Donna are there for lunch, although they will be away for the winter. People from the community may drop in, or plan to participate on a regular basis, sometimes monthly. All are welcome and appreciated.

The mission of the Fairmont Friendship Club is to provide a place where multiple generations can gather and interact within a safe and caring environment. The Friendship Club is staffed by community members who bring their experiences, ideas, and kindness to share with our members. One caregiver wrote:

"Shelby participates in this awesome group of people in our community who have various health conditions or impairments. Bonnie Hall, her sister Pam, and other wonderful community

members come together on Thursdays. They share laughter, abilities, activities, social stories, questions and answers, funny happenings, interactions, projects, meals, snacks, ponies, farm life; and the list goes on. These awesome friends help her feel connected, supported, and loved. The group is unique and has boosted Shelby's self-confidence and (feeling of) inclusion. This group gives a sense of belonging and purpose to our loved ones and we cannot thank this club enough. Thank you, Friendship Club!"

If you would like to visit or offer an activity, or if you know someone who might benefit from the opportunity to spend Thursdays with the Fairmont Friendship Club, contact Bonnie Hall at [bonnie@fairmontfarminc.com](mailto:bonnie@fairmontfarminc.com) or 802-272-8426.

—Bonnie Hall lives on Lyle Young Road with her husband, Richard, and are co-owners of Fairmont Farms, Inc. Barbara Ploof is a long-time volunteer with the Signpost.

**“We love being  
in a friendly and  
accepting place  
where there is so  
much laughter,  
fun, and sharing.”**



*Top Left (L to R): Shelby, Conner, Rob, and Dave enjoy the view from the pines on the hill.  
Top Right (L to R): Dave, Rob, Shelby, Conner, and Bonnie take a ride in the golf cart.  
Lower Left: Fairmont Friendship Club meets in the living room.  
Lower Right (L to R): Dave, Rob, Shelby, and Conner hold plants purchased for flower boxes.*



## BIRTHS

- Noelle Avery, born to Gabriela Quintanilla in September
- Henry Preston, born to Ashley & Aaron Preston in September
- Madelyn Martin, born to Bridget Grant and Colby Martin in November

## MARRIAGES

- Jennifer Paquin and David Supernault married in October

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

- Mittie Gidney, sister to Roberta Morse, died in September
- John E. Mekkelson, Sr., husband to Grace and father to Bruce, died in October
- Ronald Gonyaw, father to Steven, died in November
- Michael Prive, brother to Alfred Prive, 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.*

- Tyson Brown & Julia Watson to Richard & Olivia Thompson, 9.43 acres open land on Barnes Rd.
- Fairmont Farm, Inc. to Fairmont Dairy, LLC, various parcels
- Fecteau Residential to James Wheeler, a mobile home on Drake Rd.
- Justine Guthrie to Kyle Brown & Kelsey Shea, 2.85 acres & dwelling on Pine Ridge Rd.
- Kirkpatrick Revocable Trust to Jessica Ballard, Elizabeth Gurney & Sarah Snow, 44.6 acres of open land on East Hill Rd.
- Richard & Rose McAllister to Kristen Briggs & Margaret Broderick, 7.10 acres & dwelling on Gould Hill Rd.
- Benjamin McCall to Linda McCall, undivided 50% interest in 1.67 acres.
- Sharon Peck to Kimberly Ingraham & Robert Weiss, 15 acres and dwelling on Vincent Flats Rd.
- Alan & Gale Rome to Matthew Woodall & Hilari Sauncy, 1.0 acre & dwelling on Clark Rd.
- Susan Shattuck to Sherwood Morse, 47 acres of open land on Cummings Rd.

- Win Turner & Laura Bozarth to James & Kristin Renner, 7.21 acres of open land on Jacobs Rd.
- Vermont State Housing Authority to Gregory Quetel, 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

### October 2, 2023

#### Motions Passed

- to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters: entered at 6:40 pm and exited at 7:40 pm
- to authorize TA Jenkins to offer the candidate the zoning administrator position
- to approve the Recreation Board Cash Receipts Policy as presented
- to authorize the TA Jenkins to update, sign, and submit the renewal application for the VLCT PACIF (insurance) membership program

### October 16, 2023

#### Motion Passed

- 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 approve access permit 23-037, Chickering Rd.
- to authorize TA Jenkins to sign the Memorandum of Agreement between the Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS) and Town of East Montpelier for the Provision of Municipal Energy Assessment Services Under the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP)

### November 6, 2023 (U)

#### Motion Passed

- to authorize the TA Jenkins to contact the Town's attorney to investigate the potential for the Town of East Montpelier to consider relinquishing its

right-of-way on a portion of Wheeler Rd.

- to authorize the treasurer to disburse the accumulated interest in the Carlton C. Smith Fund to the Four Corner Schoolhouse Association for mold remediation
- to authorize TA Jenkins to accept the quote for network cabling in the town office and to use ARPA funds to pay for the work
- to authorize the chair to sign a letter to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board's Rural Economic Development Initiative, in support of Plainfield Hardware's grant application
- to appoint Mikaela Engert as Zoning Administrator effective Nov. 6, 2023
- to authorize TA Jenkins to sign the quote, pay the subscription cost of KnowBe4 Diamond Level Cybersecurity Training, and submit for reimbursement by VLCT

## PLANNING COMMISSION

### September 21, 2023

#### Motions Passed

- to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters: entered executive session at 7:12 pm and exited at 8:10 pm
- to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters: entered executive session at 8:12 pm and exited at 8:22 pm.
- to recommend candidate for Zoning Administrator position to the Selectboard, with the SB to conduct reference checks

### October 5, 2023

#### Discussion

- Review updates to Town Plan Chapter 9: Natural and Scenic Resources
- Work Plan for Town Plan updates

### October 19, 2023

#### Discussion

- Continued review of Town Plan Chapter 9 and discuss work plan for Town Plan updates

### November 2, 2023

#### Discussion

- Continued review of Town Plan Chapter 9



**November 16, 2023**

**Motions Passed**

- Discussed approach and work plan for the Town Plan updates and timelines

**WCUUSD**

**October 11, 2023**

**(Virtual Meeting Only)**

**Motions Passed**

- to go into executive session for the purpose of considering matters related to the discipline of students: entered executive session at 7:32 am and exited at 7:46 am
- to accept the Administration's recommendation regarding the related discipline in the confidential student matter
- to go into executive session for the purpose of considering matters related to the discipline of students: entered executive session at 7:52 am and exited at 8:04 am
- to accept the administration's recommendation regarding the related discipline in the confidential student matter

**October 18, 2023**

**Motions Passed**

- to authorize the allocation of \$127,502 additional capital reserve funds to the completion of the projects as identified and approve the district moving forward with the bid document and bidding as necessary
- to approve awarding the U-32 Exterior Door Replacement Project contract to Acme Glass, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$117,254, to be completed in FY24
- to set the calendar year 2024 Dental Insurance Premiums as follows: Single Plan \$720; 2-Person Plan \$1,080; Family Plan \$1,680
- to accept a new teacher, Jen Donovan, interventionist, 0.5 FTE for FY24 only
- to accept the resignation of Mahala Largent and to wish her well
- to approve a budget amendment to add a 1.0 BCBA/Behavioral System Specialist position, pending funding

# Four Corners Schoolhouse Lives On

by Hobie Guion



photo by Hobie Guion

The Four Corners Schoolhouse is virtually the same as when it was built in 1938—improvements have been mostly hidden from sight. Over the past 15 years or so, the board overseeing its care has laid and taped heavy plastic sheeting on the dirt of the crawl space floor to minimize moisture; foamed the foundation walls for insulation purposes and to seal air leaks; added cellulose insulation and a sealed hatchway to the attic for the same reasons; conducted a blower-door test to reveal air loss and corrective measures; and replaced the furnace with a newer model that saved 30% on our oil use. Lastly, we have added interior storm windows to reduce heat loss and improve occupant comfort, all while maintaining the look of the original windows and interior.

Today, the Four Corners Schoolhouse is East Montpelier's community center—and so much more. Town residents have enjoyed it for birthday parties, gardening workshops, exercise classes for seniors, and as a place to assemble for a variety of local groups. As a rental, it has hosted storytelling, singing, and music to a broad audience.

Presently, the building has a mold issue which has curtailed its use. There is a plan underway to correct this issue while at the same time bringing the building in compliance with energy efficiency and air-quality standards. To those ends, a heat pump, a dehumidifier, and heat-recovery ventilation will be added to the mechanical room. Cellulose insulation will also be added to the exterior walls.

The Vermont Arts Council has awarded us a \$30,000 grant, and we have received a matching amount from the town selectboard as they are disbursing federal funds. We are in the last phase of raising funds—from supporters—and are halfway to the last \$10,000.

To those who might have enjoyed an evening of Irish musicians, a travelogue to far-flung places, or superb storytelling from Tim Jennings—all hosted within the little white schoolhouse—there is a way to contribute to its bright future via a GoFundMe campaign. Search “remediate-mold-at-the-four-corners-schoolhouse” on [gofundme.org](https://gofundme.org) and it will quickly pop up. Alternatively, checks may be sent to: The Four Corners Schoolhouse Association, P.O. Box 63, East Montpelier, VT. 05651.

*—Hobie Guion is long-time member and current president of the FCSA board who, after all these years, still takes pleasure seeing the community enjoy this piece of East Montpelier's history.*

# Sharing Good Food with Neighbors at Town Meeting

by Sue Racanelli

It's time to start thinking about Town Meeting Potluck Lunch which will take place on Tuesday, March 5th at the East Montpelier Elementary School following Town Meeting.

The format will be the same as last year; asking residents to bring a main entrée that feeds at least eight people. Please label the entrée as non-vegetarian, vegetarian, or vegan. Bread, desserts, beverages, and napkins will be provided. As of now, please bring utensils and cutlery, and be sure to take these home with you. All serving dishes, plates, glasses, forks,

knives, or spoons will not be washed in the kitchen as it will be closed except for the warming ovens. Should this change, a notice will be posted in Front Porch Forum.

Anyone planning to attend and share a dish, please email with the number in your party. Anyone who cannot bring a main dish, meals will be provided at a cost of \$5 and must be reserved in advance by emailing [racanellis@comcast.net](mailto:racanellis@comcast.net). Finally, anyone interested in helping on Town Meeting Day with set-up, preparation, serving food, or clean-up, please email [racanellis@comcast.net](mailto:racanellis@comcast.net).

## Potluck Coordinator Needed

This is my final year as Potluck Coordinator, and we are looking for someone to take over the position in 2024. I have truly enjoyed the planning and thank my predecessor Rachael Grossman for her faith in my ability and for all of the hand-holding! This is a volunteer job, and the basic function is to coordinate the Town Potluck, recruit volunteers to help, solicit a few donations, and post notices and articles in the Front Porch Forum and *Signpost*. Organizing the Town Potluck is a great way to give back to your community and a lot of fun. Email me, [racanellis@comcast.net](mailto:racanellis@comcast.net), if you are interested. I can answer questions and make sure you are comfortable learning the ropes before you take on the position.

—Sue Racanelli is the latest E.M. wonder woman who has overseen the “best lunch in town” on Town Meeting Day in recent years.



## Paulie's Recipe General Lee's Favorite Soup

Submitted by Carolyn Johnson  
to the Twin Valley Senior Center Cookbook 2018

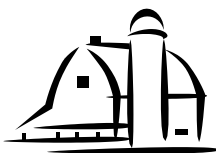
### INGREDIENTS

4 cups tomatoes	2 tsp. onion juice
1 stalk of celery, chopped	Salt and pepper to taste
2 carrots, chopped	1 wine glass of sherry wine
2 sprigs of parsley	2 cups water
¼ green pepper chopped	
1 bay leaf	

### DIRECTIONS

Put the tomatoes in a saucepan with water. Add all the vegetables and seasonings and let boil for 30 minutes.

Strain, then add the sherry wine. Serve piping hot.



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## IMPORTANT DATES

**Mon., Jan. 1,** New Year's Day, Town Office Closed

**Mon., Jan. 15,** Martin Luther King Day, Town Office Closed

**Thurs. Jan. 18, 5:00 pm, Petitions for Town Meeting Articles due** at the Town Office. Must have at least 104 signatures (5% of voters).

**Mon. Jan. 29, 5:00 pm Nominating petitions for Town offices due** at the Town Office. Must have at least 21 signatures (1% of voters).

**Wed. Feb. 14,** Ballots for local issues available at Town Office

**Monday, February 19,** Presidents' Day, Town Office closed

**Mon. Mar. 4, 6:30 pm,** Town Meeting forum, at the Town Office

**Tues. Mar. 5, 7 am - 7 pm,** Polls open at EMES

**Tues., Mar. 9, 9 am - 12 pm,** Rabies clinic for cats and dogs (\$20), EM Fire Station

**SUBMISSIONS FOR  
MARCH-APRIL 2024 SIGNPOST DUE  
January 29, 2024**

## • ANNUAL DOG LICENSING •



It's the new year and East Montpelier dogs are ready to wear this year's orange daisy tag.

Annual dog licensing runs **January 2 - April 1**. 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. Call 802.223.3313 with any questions about dog licensing.

Dogs licensed by April 1 are automatically entered into the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual East Montpelier #1 Dog Drawing for a chance to win the #001 dog tag, bragging rights, and a prize package of canine loot 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  
Old Brick Church/E. Calais