

Angels in our Community

by Carolyn Shapiro and Hilari Farrington

The *Signpost* feature editors have been thinking about how many people in East Montpelier have selflessly stepped up to offer their skills and expertise to help make our community better. We will continue to explore this subject in future issues; but we are starting now with Carolyn Shapiro who we think is an outstanding example of someone who, with her husband Andy, has participated in many projects that have made a difference over the years.

There is a visionary quality to Carolyn's community work. In the 1990s, she took over the ELF program at East Montpelier Elementary, adding her own slant. Instead of the natural science curriculum, she presented an environmental/recycling series and a program linking different cultures to their environments. And most recently she led a successful Kickstarter campaign which launched the restoration of the now-thriving Rise Up Bakery in Barre's Old Labor Hall.

We asked Carolyn to reflect on some of these projects, wondering which has stood out for her. This is what she told us:

"As a former high school teacher and an artist who likes to bring people together around visualizing how we can be a lively community, I was struck by the sudden possibility in 1996 of coming together to make a needed structure for the U-32 school.

In the back of my mind were the images of historic barn raisings. What if we got together and raised the building needed for the increase in students at U-32? What if we all used our skills to cut the wood from the trees around the school, stack them, and then begin building? What if food were brought to the school for lunches and during lunch times, we would all sit together and have fun discussions of past educational experiences and present possibilities in the new structure?

Andy, my husband, is a very talented energy engineer and has a great sense of how to design a simple, insulated building with solar that would come in using the same budget that the school was proposing to rent double wide



Completed building at U-32.



Play structure in the U-32 building.

photos by Carolyn Shapiro

trailers.

The U-32 school board was convinced and approved construction of a 1,700 square foot building. Our project was a less costly alternative and an opportunity to bring the U-32 community together. More than 100 people volunteered their time with labor and serving meals. Volunteers ranged from grandparents to students to parents.

Angels, continued on p. 2

I'm writing this on the Autumnal Equinox—another turn of the planet and a re-turn of me, Ann Stanton, as interim General Manager. It's an honor and a pleasure to be part of producing the East Montpelier Signpost. Since Jean Cate founded it 30+ years ago, it has been written, designed, and laid out by an all-volunteer group who love the town, the periodical, and the process. That said, we volunteers would love you to consider joining us in nurturing our community's unity and sense of identity. We always welcome writers, of course, and there are many talented ones living among us. We also seek staff volunteers. Along with the periodical, we too have aged. Time to start recruiting folks who can join in our monthly meetings to discuss ideas, edit stories, and eat delicious member-provided goodies. For a

relatively small investment of time and energy, you can have a positive impact on our town.

'Tis the season of important national, state, and local elections, so more change is in the offing. Some of us will be happy with the November results; some, not so much. But as Andy Christiansen informed me many years ago (at the time he was our House Representative and a member of the Progressive Party): "Ann, it doesn't matter what your politics are. When you fall into that ditch or have a flat tire, one of your neighbors will pull you out and take care of you." I've certainly found that to be the case. We live in a rare and wonderful place.

—Ann Stanton is the Signpost's managing editor.

Angels continued from p. 1

Even people without children at U-32 donated their time.

The project came in under the deadline and within the budget. One of the additional benefits was having the students who would occupy the space in the new building, design and construct a play structure within the building.

With the help of a professional builder, the children made their own saws and cut and nailed the boards together to make a fun environment for their new space. At the completion of the project, there was a wonderful celebration that confirmed our image of what can happen when we all work together successfully and enthusiastically."

Editors' note: The building still stands next to the athletic field, in use for classes and other functions. We think that it's a fitting testament to what we can do when we come together as a community.

'Tis the Season

As the leaves change and the temperatures get colder, we are reminded of the hard times that some families experience during the holiday season. East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD) will be working with the Calais and East Montpelier schools to identify families that may be in need this year. EMFD is encouraging the communities to support their annual holiday drive with donations of food or money.

Donations may be dropped off at the EMFD located at the intersection of US2 and US14, or checks made out to the EMFD may be mailed to: East Montpelier Fire Department, P.O. Box 146, East Montpelier, VT, 05651

Thank you for all of your support.

—Albert Petrella is the Chief of EMFD.

EAST
MONTPELIER

East Montpelier Signpost

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Links to Other Town Information

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Holiday Thoughts from EM Trails

by Mary Stone

photo by Mary Stone



Cobweb ornament discovered in a spruce tree on the trail.

As November rolls around again, and the summer/fall trail work season comes to a close, my thoughts turn to the holidays ahead—a season of list making. First comes the Giving Thanks list followed by the December Wish list. It is a good time to share my East Montpelier Trails lists:

Giving Thanks for:

- Our generous landowners
- Our enthusiastic trail stewards
- Our hardworking volunteers
- Our dedicated board members
- Our unknown, but much appreciated, “trail fairies”
- Our supportive townspeople who vote to fund the East Montpelier trails each year
- Our charitable gift donors

- Our town road crew
- Our local professional landscape/land care workers and trail builders
- Our trail founder
- Our partnering conservation and recreation organizations
- Our trail users: without you there would be no trails

December Wish/To-Do List:

- New bridge over Mallory Brook
- New trail route or replacement boardwalk on Sparrow Farm Trail
- Complete Sparrow North Trail
- New maps for trailhead signs
- An accessible trail in East Montpelier
- More volunteers answering the call in 2025

Our to-do list is not long, but maintaining, improving, and adding new trails requires countless hours of volunteer work in planning and working with the multiple stakeholders before we even get to the physical reward of trail building. My greatest wish is for more volunteers to answer the call, the email, and the FPF posting for trail work days in 2025. In just two hours on the trail, you may feel a few sore muscles, but you will also gain new friends, satisfaction in work completed, and personal pride in the beauty of our East Montpelier trail network.

—Mary Stone is an East Montpelier Trails board member.

Historical Society Tours Town Cemetery

by Sandal Cate

photo by Sandal Cate



The East Montpelier Historical Society (EMHS) took a field trip to the Cate Cemetery, which is adjacent to the Cate Farm on Coburn Road. Andy Christiansen and Paul Cate have ancestors buried there, so they shared stories about these former inhabitants of what was Montpelier before it became East Montpelier in 1849. There are family names of McKnight, Allen, Brown, Cowles, Daggett, Coburn, Davis, Dix, Holmes, and LeBaron among the 168 names listed. For a detailed list, please visit FindaGrave.com and search Cate Cemetery.

The earliest stone is from 1794 with the name of young Betsey Cate, daughter of Enoch and Susannah Cate, who built the farm there. She is reputed to be the first (Caucasian) person buried in early Montpelier.

Many of the stones are in good shape, and the group observed that the slate stones seemed to be holding up especially well and have the more elaborate carvings on them. Other stones are marble and granite. Our town Cemetery Commission has done a good job of maintaining the cemetery site, which is open at any time to visitors. We appreciated the hospitality of the Cate Farm as well. Please see the calendar on page 12 for this year's final EMHS meeting. All are welcome!

—Sandal Cate is a long-time leader of the East Montpelier Historical Society.

Goats on the East Montpelier Trails

by Zach Sullivan

I was running on the town trails heading from Templeton Road up towards the Town Forest when I ran into a herd of goats on the trail. I slowed down to walk through them, and when I continued on, they started following me. “This isn’t great,” I thought. “I can’t just lead them way up the trail.” As I turned back to try to lead them back (and potentially to get back to the sign on the road which had the phone number for the farmer responsible for them), I started to hear some beeping coming from the herd: the boxes

around their necks were clearly some sort of containment device. The goats that had been following me returned to the herd and I turned back to continue my run up to Esther’s Rock.

On the way back, I had to pass through the herd again, but this time I thought I knew the drill—walk through them, turn back to bring the ones that tried to follow me out back to the herd, continue on my way.

But this time, when I tried to bring the followers back to the herd, they came back with me—and then turned around and followed me once again. In the company of seven goats, I continued out to the road to call the farmer for help. She was two hours away, unfortunately, but she tried to assure me that they would turn back and stay with the herd. I went all the way back into the woods with them, but contrary to expectations, they did not stay with the herd. The collars

(clearly not containing them) didn’t make a sound. I yelled at them. I tried barking at them (dignity was no longer a concern). Nothing worked.

Eventually, I tried to see if they would turn around if they got too far away from where they should be. I headed out to the road and started walking down it. No luck; I couldn’t just lead them another three miles to where I’d parked.

A car came by, stopped, and rolled down the window. The driver called out to me, “Are these your goats?” “NO!” I replied. “Their virtual fence is broken, and they’re following me; my car is down at Dodge Road!” “Are they friendly?” she asked? “Yes, that’s part of the problem! They won’t stop following me, and I’m not fast enough to outrun them!”

Finally, she asked, “Would you like a ride to Dodge Road?” “That would be wonderful,” I replied gratefully, as I

hopped into the car.

As we sped away, leaving the goats in the dust, my rescuer said to me “I don’t normally give rides to strangers, but this was just too funny.”

—Zach Sullivan lives on Boulder Ridge Road. He is often found on the Dodge Road to Center Road trail section.



Photo by Zach Sullivan



photo by Tracy Hambleton

Artwork like this painting by Tracy Hambleton will be available for sale at this two-day only event.

Pop-up Art Show

Mark your calendars for a pop-up art show hosted by seven local artists. Sale takes place at Four Corners Schoolhouse Nov. 22 and 23, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. A variety of handmade items will be for sale at this special event. Start your holiday shopping early. Art makes a unique and thoughtful gift for a loved one—or even for yourself. Let’s keep it “old school”—cash or check only. Featured artists include:

- Sarah Albert, pastel paintings
- Terry Allen, photos and functional pottery
- Betsy Chordokoff, saggar, raku, and horsehair fired pottery
- Joni Clemons, cards, assemblages, and knitted items
- Tracey Hambleton, plein air paintings of East Montpelier
- Janet Macleod, paintings, cards, papier-mâché creations
- Sharon Peck, landscape oil paintings

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Fri 9 AM –12 PM

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A New Year Brings Changes at EMES



photo by Jillian Zeilenga

Artwork created by the EMES Kindergarten students.

As the leaves begin to turn and the sunflowers are in bloom, you know it is time for a new school year at East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES). Each new school year brings new possibilities. You get a chance to meet some new friends, connect with friends you haven't seen all summer, and you save a little space in your heart for some that have moved on to new adventures.

This is no different for the staff at EMES. As we settled into the gym in late August, we had a chance to catch up with colleagues and learn about their summers from our annual summer slide show. As a staff member who has been there for many years, I found it took a minute to get used to not seeing the big bright smile of Beth Parker, hearing a funny joke from Dave Mathies, or finding out how Sam Mishkin and James Haseltine spent their summers with their children. But just like our graduated sixth graders, they are off on new adventures of their own.

While we will surely miss these colleagues, the new school year also gives us a chance to welcome new faces to the staff at East Montpelier. Ainsley Burroughs has joined the teaching team. She previously taught at Calais and has extensive experience teaching outdoor education. Lydia Faesy, RN, is the parent of two former EMES students and is now our school nurse. Lydia has a wealth of nursing experience. We are so lucky to have her. Jacqueline Hunt is our new music teacher, coming from the Orange Southwest District. Cathie Ely is also an outdoor enthusiast who joins us from Barre Town as one of our highly skilled literacy interventionists. Mackenzie Wardell joins our Pre-K and is also a certified art teacher! Rachel Kittle and Madison Whiting join our stellar staff of paraprofessionals here at EMES.

Now, well into the school year, it is difficult to imagine school life without all our new staff at EMES. We are so lucky to have them and wish all the best to our former colleagues in their new adventures.

—Jillian Zeilenga is a kindergarten teacher at EMES and the liaison with the Signpost.

From Farm to Table in East Montpelier

by Hilari Farrington

The leaves have fallen, the days are shorter, the weather has cooled, and the holidays will soon be upon us. It seemed like the perfect time to highlight some of the farm stores in East Montpelier where we can purchase local products directly from the producers.

While we realize that we don't have space to cover all of the local agricultural businesses in this issue, we visited three of the farm stores that we are lucky to have in East Montpelier. What they all had in common was pride in their farming practices and in connecting with the local community.

Fairmont Farms, 141 Lyle Haven Road, off US14



photo by Terry Allen

Elizabeth Hall greets folks at Fairmont.

Fairmont Farm was formed in 1992 when young farmers, Richard and Bonnie Hall, merged three small, local family dairy farms to become one. It has since become a three-generation family-owned business with a fourth generation of future farmers now growing up on the farm.

According to Bonnie, the idea of having a store on the farm happened in May of the Covid

year. At the time, the Hall family was selling small amounts of beef to close friends and family. When they had the opportunity to purchase 20 piglets, they decided that it was time to expand their marketing. Since then, Fairmont's sales have evolved to include beef, milk-fed pork, veal, lamb, Cabot products, maple syrup, jams, honey, Island Homemade Ice Cream, and Fairmont "merch."

The in-person store is a tidy yellow building with rocking chairs set up on a welcoming porch. Inside you'll find a refrigerated case of Cabot cheeses and shelves of local products, from knitted dish cloths to homemade jams.

The in-person experience happens each Friday from 3-6 pm, where you will meet the various family members who work there. However, on other days customers can simply go to the Fairmont Farms website, place an order, and choose the day on which you want to pick up (if you order before 1 pm you can pick up your order on the same day). When you arrive at the farm store, there is a pick-up fridge that is accessible 24 hours a day.

The store at Fairmont Farms markets its varied products creatively. For example, they offer Farm to Table Bags, a monthly package with three or four recipes including meats

and Cabot products or some other products to go with it. The easy-to-follow recipes change with the seasons. And with the approaching holidays, they have special plans for gift-giving. Just check out the website.

Like the other farmers, Bonnie Hall, says that what she likes best about having a store on the farm is the great connection they have made with community members. Many people come to the farm market and go away understanding a bit more about the sources of their food.

McKnight Farm, 440 Snow Hill Road



photo by Terry Allen

Kim Watson makes customers feel welcome

The McKnight Farm is one of the few VOF (Vermont Organic Farmer) Certified dairy and beef farms in the area. When farmers Seth Gardner and Kim Watson discovered a market for their reasonably priced milk, beef, and pork, the idea of the store took shape.

They began by selling to their neighbors out of the milk house. As word spread, they outgrew the milk house and built a farm store to accommodate the increased demand.

The store, attached to their barn, is bright and clean, with a refrigerated case displaying jars of organic milk and several freezers of beef and pork. The prices are listed on two white boards, which keep customers up to date on which cuts are available and which are out of stock. There are books on display as well, including two books on herbs by Seth's mother, Jo Ann Gardner, and John Hall's latest novel.

If you're purchasing organic milk at the farm, there is a jar deposit of \$4 on the first purchase (in addition to the \$4 price of the milk), but once you return the washed container, the price of milk is only \$4 per half gallon - a

Consider Public Service

by Edie Miller

Though March may seem far off now, planning for Town Meeting requires some forethought. Our town officials are already deep into budget discussions and other preparation for a new fiscal year. A major outcome of Town Meeting Day—which falls on Tuesday, March 4, 2025—is the election of our friends and neighbors who keep the wheels of our corner of the world turning. While some of the positions carry small stipends, participating in town and school government is, essentially, a volunteer effort—a very important and satisfying one. We depend on one another to step up and take a turn helping to keep things running smoothly.

With a deadline of January 27 for candidates' petitions, now is the time to consider whether this is your time for public service. We will elect the following positions on March 4:

- Selectboard: 1 three-year term and 1 two-year term
- Lister: 1 three-year term
- Auditor: 1 three-year term
- Planning Commission: 3 three-year terms

In addition, there are many more appointed positions that are critical to the functioning of East Montpelier. If you're not sure what's involved, call one of those currently taking their turn, check out the town website (eastmontpeliervt.org), or call our town clerk. There are many sources of information readily available—just ask.

Participation in local government here in Vermont is a most rewarding and worthwhile activity for the participant, and it is critical for our community as a whole. Please consider giving it a try.

—Edie Miller has enjoyed playing numerous roles in local government over many years.

Do You Love Food?

Do you not only like food, but love talking about what we depend upon for nutrition and pleasure, its origins, and how it's prepared? If the answer is "yes," then you might like to consider becoming a *Signpost* volunteer with the specific task of searching out and writing about folks in East Montpelier who grow or in some way prepare and/or sell the food we put on our tables. It is the position of editor of *East Montpelier Eats* that we are seeking to fill. If you are interested, contact Ann Stanton at profstanton@aol.com.

bargain indeed. You can also buy eggs when available.

Seth and Kim believe that offering fresh farm products in a well-lit, clean and orderly space, has made the store more appealing to their customer base. And because they live and work on the farm, they can monitor the needs of the store and their customers on a daily basis. Best of all, the farm store gives customers a chance to connect with a hard-working dairy farm right here in East Montpelier.

Templeton Farm, 3410 Center Road



photo by Terry Allen

Templeton Farm is one of the oldest farms in East Montpelier. It was first settled by John Templeton Jr. in 1810 and has been in continuous family ownership for over two hundred years. Over the course of nine generations, they have produced hay, grain, wool, timber, apples, milk, maple products, and beef.

With his son Seth, Bruce Chapell began raising Angus cattle around 2010, but strong local demand soon encouraged them to expand the herd with a mix of Angus and Hereford cattle that now graze the land in rotation.

Maple sugaring has also been a consistent venture on Templeton Farm since 1986. Then, in 2016, Seth and his wife, Natalie, bought their home and forty acres of sugarbush in East Montpelier, expanding the original sugaring operation to nearly 4,000 taps. They now produce about 1800 gallons each sugaring season.

In 1993, the farmland and forest were conserved with the Vermont Land Trust. This ensured that the land will never be developed or used for purposes other than agriculture, forestry, or recreation.

The farm store, which sits on beautifully landscaped grounds, offers all-natural grass-fed beef, free of growth hormones and antibiotics. There is maple syrup for sale, and a freezer full of meat, from prime rib to bones for your dog. Those with a big freezer who want to economize can opt to purchase whole or half sides of beef, with pickup in October and November. You can pay for store products on location, either by Venmo, check, or cash.

TOWN WEATHERVANE

BIRTHS

- Callahan T. McCauley was born in July to Katherine McCauley-Flippin & Joshua Nichols
- Colton S. Meacham-Emerson was born in July to Sarah Emerson & Gregory Meacham
- Eva L. Weinert was born in July to Jaye & Zackariah Weinert
- Miles N. P. Whitehead was born in June to Lauren Padilla & Todd Whitehead

MARRIAGES

- Cody Sayers (East Calais) & Cynthia Stevens (Hardwick) married in September.

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

- Jane Conn died in June
- Edna Corliss, mother of Brenda Bolio and Vicki Corliss, died in September
- Thomas Curchin, husband of Sarah Kinter, died in September.
- Sylvia Franks died in May
- Justin Orr died in June
- Marjorie Rebman, wife of Richard Rebmann, died in July
- Richard Sanborn, husband of Ruth and father of Edmund, died in July
- Howard Sieven died in September
- Donna Stacy, mother of Cheryl Rus, died in May

LAND TRANSFERS

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

- Brown Living Trust to Solomon & Carole Gaynor, 12.8 acres and dwelling on L. Brown Dr.
- Richard & Gaye Christiansen to Winooski Valley Cooperative Market, 3.07 acres and commercial building on US2
- Wayne Fisher & Lynn Talamini to Thomas & Kathryn Placek, 7.12 acres & dwelling on North St.
- James & Katherine Gascoyne to Hoa Nguyen & Margaret Nelson, 9.15 acres & dwelling on Jacobs Rd.

- Micah & Dana Howe to Robert & Julie Brown, 4.61 acres & dwelling on Bragg Hill Rd.
- Carol Lavallee to Peter Lavallee & Kurt Poulin, 10.10 acres and seasonal dwelling on Chickering Rd.
- Peter Lavallee & Kurt Poulin to Poulin Lavallee Camp Trust
- Bennett & Maria Leon to Holly Nance, 3.01 acres & dwelling on Towne Hill Rd.
- Ronald & Emily Marion to Thomas & Kathryn Brandecker, 3 acres & dwelling on Phillips Rd.
- Alan & Toni May to Peter & Cynthia Elias, 11.40 acres & dwelling on Mays Way
- Caleb & Alyssa Nelson to Fifty-One Properties, LLC, 3.77 acres on L. Brown Dr.
- Doug Scott to Margaret Ferron, 2.80 acres & dwelling on Coburn Rd.
- Robert & Elaine Shortsleeve to Ronald & Roxie Berry, a mobile home on Robinson Rd.
- John Wallstrom III to Adrienne Borek & Michael Blanchard, 8.38 acres & dwelling on Factory St.
- Priscilla White to Ellie Denton & Annie Coppock, 10.10 acres & dwelling on Doner Rd.
- Winterwood Timber Frames LLC to William Crow II & Richard Von Zimmer, 3.04 acres on Captain Kidd Rd.
- Cate & Elizabeth Wirth to George Nagel & Laura Henderson, 10.03 acres & dwelling on McKnight 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

August 5 2024

Actions Taken

- Approved the name Wyvern Way for the private road behind 170 Cherry Tree Hill Rd
- Authorized the TA to submit the energy efficiency and conservation

grant application to the Collective Well Foundation on behalf of the town

- Authorized TA to submit an RFP for a permanent bridge on Sanders Circle as designed by DeWolfe Engineering
- Asked that TA arrange for the landscaping to be cleaned up and for the old tractor to be removed from the Hudson property. The TC will continue to search for property survey. (The SB toured this property at 2812 US2 prior to the meeting.)
- Appointed Kevin Thompson as e911 Coordinator.
- Approved curb cut (access permit #24 032) for 1105 Gallison Hill Rd.
- Approved the tax rates as presented
- Waived penalties for late filing of Homestead Declarations
- Accepted proposed change in the Rec Board Policy
- Appointed Zoe Christiansen to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC)

Discussion:

- Town Garage Documents: Chair noted that using capital improvement fund, cost can be brought down to \$4.95M. Approved Resolution Certificate, Warning, Ballot as amended, and the Declaration of Official Intent.

August 19, 2024

Actions Taken:

- Authorized TC to approve Plainfield Hardware tobacco license

Discussion:

- Discussed, with Bill Powell of WEC, options for a new electric vehicle charging station at park & ride where the current one has been offline for 4 months
- Continued discussion of options for Hudson house property. Need cost estimates for asbestos abatement and cost of demolition

September 9, 2024

Actions Taken

- Accepted CCS bid for Sanders Circle culvert replacement
- Accepted Farnham bid for the temporary fix on Horn of the Moon.

TOWN WEATHERVANE

Will submit to FEMA the cost of this temporary fix as well as a permanent fix

- Approved curb cut for Doner Rd. (permit #24-036)
- Authorized TC to sign the States Archives Ascension Agreement for birth certificates from 1909-2013 and death 1909-2010. These will be stored in the State Archives. Certificates can be accessed through the databases.
- Approved motion to close the TC office on day preceding every election day for preparation (also providing a note on front door saying we are closed including the TC's cell phone number, if someone needs to vote that day)
- Approved motion for Chair to sign the Tax Sale Engagement Letter in preparation for tax sale on properties that are over 1 year fully delinquent

September 25, 2024 (Unapproved)

Actions Taken:

- Announced Town Garage Forum (Harvest Fest) planned for Oct. 12 as well as tour and forum Nov. 2
- Approved submission of application for Municipal Energy Resilience Program Implementation Grant. Energy Committee will prepare draft of the application

PLANNING COMMISSION

September 29, 2024 (unapproved)

- Discussed regional housing targets for CVRPC Regional Plan

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

August 6, 2024

- Approved application #24-023, proposed by Fairmont Dairy for a 2-lot subdivision at 1355 VT14: Lot 1 of +/- 195.91 acres and Lot 2 of +/- 6.09 acres. This subdivision would separate Lot 2 (including the house and barns located at 1355 VT14 with existing access to VT14) from the farmstead located at 141 Lyle Haven Rd.

WCUUSD

August 8, 2024 (School Board Retreat)

Discussion

- Open meeting law changes with Scott Cameron

- Information from the June retreat
- Goals, action steps, and communication for strategic planning

August 21, 2024

Actions Taken

- Appointed Julia Hewitt board member from Worcester (following 4 min. exec. session)
- Approved revised prioritizing criteria submitted by Reconfiguration Committee
- Approved use of capital improvement fund reserves to pay for district-wide exterior door re-keying project for an amount not to exceed \$35,000.
- Approved contingency increase for the Safety Systems of Vermont Contract to \$39,140 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$469,671.
- Authorized the superintendent to purchase Kubota tractor for amount not to exceed \$41,855.76 as replacement mower for U-32
- Reviewed the rates for substitutes (full day) \$140.00 (half day) \$70.00
- Approved new hires: Will Keller - MS English, U-32; Sarah Ainsworth - RISE Coordinator, U-32; Jarrod Weiss - Principal, Calais Elementary; Jacqueline Hunt - Music Teacher, Rumney/EMES; Katherine McCauley-Flippin - Interventionist, Doty
- Approved resignation of Amanda Morse
- Approved changes in FTE: Michael Close - 0.6 FTE to 0.8 FTE Music Teacher, U-32; Kristina Snook - 0.2 FTE to 0.4 FTE Art Teacher, Berlin; Callie Weller - 0.84 FTE to 1.0 FTE to cover Pre-K/K classroom five days/week, Calais Elementary
- Approved changes in positions: Tony Snow - Dean of Students, U-32; JB Hilferty - Assistant Principal, U-32

September 4, 2024

Discussion:

- Public comments offered for 2 hours, each person held to a 1.5 minutes. All comments related to reconfiguration of the school district including classroom use, curriculum, bus routes, special

education, staffing, art and music, decision making process, etc.

Actions Taken

- Approved the following: Changes in FTE: Kristina Snook (0.3 Doty) for Library Media Specialist/Technology Integrationist, Marc Chamberlain (0.2 Doty) for PE, Rick Agran (1.00 Berlin) for 5/6 classroom teacher; Long-Term Substitutes (24-25 School Year): Benton Larrow - covering the leave of interventionist who will return to work in October; Change in Position (24-25): Jessie Dall (0.8 FTE Berlin/0.2 FTE Rumney) for Library Media Specialist/Technology Integrationist

September 18, 2024

Discussion:

- Public comments included reading letters to the Board regarding possible school closures, enrollment data and configuration matrix as presented by Superintendent Dellinger-Pate, budget parameters, and Articles of Agreement

Actions Taken

- Appointed Linnea Darrow and Lei DeGroot as student representatives on the school board
- Approved budget development timeline
- Approved budget parameters as discussed and edited
- Made a commitment to honor and not attempt to override any WCUUSD town's vote regarding the closure of its own school
- Appointed Ursula Stanley as proxy for VSBA Annual meeting
- Approved changes in FTE: Kristina Snook - (0.2) for Library Media Specialist/Technology Integrationist Rumney; and Long-Term Substitute (24-25 School Year) MacKenzie Wardell - (0.8 FTE) LTS Pre-K Classroom Teacher, EMES

September 25, 2024

Community Forum

Discussion:

- Jeannie Phillips, from Great Schools Partnership, facilitated the 1.5 hour discussion on the district's proposed school configurations.

Caring and Sharing

by Ann Stanton

On Sept. 14, the *Times Argus* editorial informed readers that Vermont scored highest of the New England states for food spending on locally or regionally produced food: just over ten percent of the \$4.47 billion of food dollars spent in 2022. This figure comes from The New England Food Systems Planners Partnership, which aims for a figure of 30% across the New England states. Vermont is a third of the way there!

The Farm Stores story in this issue of the *Signpost* reports on three East Montpelier options. Check out the archives on our website—*emsignpost.com*—for other local sources like CSAs and eggs. And of course, we are blessed with nearby farmer's markets and coops that feature locally sourced food. Eating locally is a way to care for our farmers, taking advantage of our agricultural heritage and keeping

food profits local instead of sending them to profit-driven corporate farms. It also cares for our planet, with the use of sustainable and regenerative practices (and less pollution from long transport chains).

As we enter the dark days of winter, consider the role that food and eating play in keeping our spirits bright. While chicken pie suppers and red flannel hash dinners have receded with autumn foliage, Thanksgiving and the winter celebrations of Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanza, etc. are upon us. Time to pull out the favorite family recipes, get out the soup pots, and get back into baking bread, for the wonderful smell as much as anything. Sharing food with family and neighbors is one of the best ways to show we care. The hearth beckons: happy eating and sharing!



Paulie's Recipe

Gay's Chocolate Sour Cream Cake with Caramel Frosting

Comment from Paulie Coburn: My family likes frosting, so I found the caramel frosting recipe in the same collection. I also added pecans on top. The cake was simple and very good; and the combination with caramel worked like a charm.

CAKE INGREDIENTS

1 stick of butter
1 cup water
4 squares unsweetened chocolate
2 eggs
2 cups sugar
½ cup sour cream
2 cups flour
1½ teaspoons baking soda

Directions

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease and flour a tube pan. Melt butter, water, and chocolate in double boiler. Beat eggs. Add sugar, chocolate mixture, sour cream, flour, and baking soda. Mix thoroughly and pour into tube pan. Bake for 1 hour. (from Lissa England)

Allow to cool and dust with confectioners sugar (or optional, with caramel frosting).

CARAMEL FROSTING INGREDIENTS

1/3 cup butter
½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
Dash of salt
3 Tablespoons milk
1½ cups confectioners' sugar (may need a little more)
¼ teaspoon vanilla

Directions

Melt butter in a small saucepan. Add brown sugar and salt. Stir over medium heat until sugar melts. Add milk and bring to a boil. Pour into a mixing bowl and cool for 10 minutes. Add confectioners' sugar and vanilla. Beat to spreading consistency, adding more confectioners' sugar if necessary. Spread on cooled cake. (from Marcia Clark)

Both recipes come from *Gather Round the Table: Recipes and Stories from The Old Meeting House*, copyright 2020.



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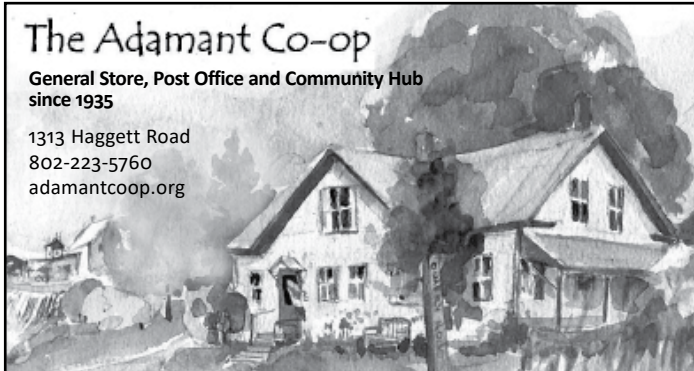
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IMPORTANT DATES

Mon. Nov. 4, Town Office closed for election preparations

Tues. Nov 5, 7 am-7 pm, Election Day (federal, state, and local including bond vote on new town garage), EMES

Fri. Nov. 15, by 5pm, first installment of EM taxes due.
Please note that office closes at 12 pm that day but the mail slot is available

Thurs. & Fri. Nov. 28 & 29, Town Office closed for Thanksgiving

Wed. Dec. 25, Town Office closed for Christmas

Wed. Jan. 1, 2025, Town Office closed for New Year's Day

Mon. Jan 20, 2025, Town Office closed for Martin Luther King Day

Mon. Jan 27, 2025, Candidate petitions for town offices due

CALENDAR

Sat. Nov. 2, 8:30-9:45 am, Town Garage Tour,
Templeton Road followed by meeting below.

Sat. Nov. 2, 10 am, Informational Forum on new Town Garage, EMES, Zoom link: <https://eastmontpeliervt.org/town-garage-forums/>

Mon. Nov. 18, 6 pm, Meeting of the EM & Calais Historical Societies, Old Brick Church, E. Mont. Village, potluck supper followed by 6:45 pm program on history of N. Montpelier presented by Nathan Phillips. BYO place setting and dish to share. Free and open to the public. Contact Sandal Cate: sandal.cate@gmail.com

Fri. Nov. 22 & Sat. Nov. 23, 10 am-4 pm, Holiday Art Sale, Four Corners Schoolhouse, painters, potters, knitters, and more have their creations for sale in time for the holidays.

Fri. Nov. 22, 10 am-noon, Vaccine Clinic, TVSC, 4583 US2, Covid, Pneumonia, RSV, Shingles and Tetanus/Pertussis shots available. For details and to register: twinvalleyseniors.org or call 223-3322.

**SUBMISSIONS FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY SIGNPOST DUE:
NOVEMBER 25, 2024**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Town Office Building
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