

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXI—Number Six

July/August 2011

Benedict Koehler: Wizard of the Uilleann Pipes

by Rhoda Carroll

We have in East Montpelier one of the finest makers and restorers of uilleann bagpipes in the world. (Say “illian,” and picture smaller, quieter bagpipes.) Benedict Koehler works serious magic in his solitary shop. It’s filled with sheet metal, metal tubes, blocks of wood, pliers and cutters of all sizes, and shelves overflowing with parts and small precise tools. There are drawings, blueprints, spindles, wheels, racks, tables, two lathes, stalks of cane (a sturdy wild grass, like bamboo), a light-box, some coffee cups, and devices that can measure finer than the thickness of a human hair. It is not a jumble. It is a wizard’s lair.

Stacked delicately are sets of uilleann pipes in many stages of construction or repair. Each set is handmade and unique. “I aim to replicate the pipes of the great pipe-makers of the past by using, as much as possible, the tools they used,” he says, caressing an old metal lathe. His passionate commitment is apparent and widely acknowledged. Eager musicians from around the world are on a five-year wait list for a set of his pipes. Far from being annoyed, they are thrilled to be on it at all, since no more orders are being taken until he gets caught up.

Continued on Page 3



Wayne Hamilton, Rachel Senechal and pooch

TERRY J. ALLEN

Two for the Woods

by Karen Liebermann

Walk through the woods and fields in our neighborhood trail system, in any season, and you are likely to meet our neighbors Rachel Senechal and Wayne Hamilton. Drawn by the need to let the puppy have a romp, enjoy the trails on skis, seek out the spring wildflowers or winter mushrooms, they are always happy to get into the woods. It’s the woods and mountains (and the promise of a bit more ski-friendly snow) that drew them to Vermont.

Born in New York and raised on a dairy farm in the Hudson Valley, Wayne spent plenty of his childhood in the open air. As an undergrad, he pursued a degree in education. After college, he spent three years running his own small dairy farm just south of Albany, New York. The economic hardships of farming led him back to graduate school for a degree in accounting from SUNY Albany. Linking his new degree and his interest in education, he took a job as an auditor at University of New Hampshire (UNH), and soon met Rachel, fellow member of a co-ed softball team and his future wife.

Rachel grew up in Westbrook, Maine, just outside of Portland. “We grew up near a city, close enough to take the bus into Portland, but my mother believed that children should play outside, a lot, in any weather...and we did!” Rachel’s interest in social work brought her to UNH to pursue the first of two degrees in that field, and it was here that she met her match on the softball field.

Continued on Page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

2—Top of the *Signpost*

3—Disappearing Landmarks Stories Wanted

6—Town Weathervane

9—New Principal at EMES

10—Calendar & Notices

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Signpost

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Top of the Signpost

by Kari Bradley

The town lost a good neighbor this May. Jim Grundy was a special guy and loved by many of us in East Montpelier. His passing was hard for anyone who knew him, but mostly I am thankful for the time we shared.

Jim was raised in East Montpelier, growing up on Clark Road in the seventies and eighties. His parents are renowned in our community: mother Darlene, a long-time teacher at EMES, and father David, a man of many passions. It was easy to see why Jim chose to build his own home here.

I first met Jim in 1979. We shared the same Teacher Advisor in seventh grade at U-32 and we hit it off immediately. Jim was the kind of friend that it took no time to make: right away it was like we had known each other all along. I have so many great memories sharing adventures with Jim: sports, cars, girls, playing trumpet in the school band and guitars in rock bands, DJing school dances, working side by side at Julio's. In 1987 we shared an epic road trip, driving endless miles through western states in Jim's aging Volkswagen, seeing brand-new sights with a sense of freedom I'll never forget.

Except for some time in California and his years at VTC, Jim spent most of his life in East Montpelier. I like to think Jim was the best of what our community has to offer: generous, hard-working, positive, and caring with values rooted in sustainability and, above all, kindness. Our best wishes to Nancy, David, Darlene, Matt, and all Jim's family. I feel like I have lost a life-long friend and we have all lost a good neighbor.

Kari Bradley manages the Hunger Mountain Co-op and lives on County Road with his wife, Gabrielle, and their children Simon, Jacob, and Ella.



Thank you *Signpost* supporters

Contributions are always welcome. Please mail them to:
PO Box 184, East Montpelier, VT 05651

Michael Duane & Ellen Knoedler	Emily & Dan Neary
Naomi & Ivan Almeleh	Jerome & Katherine Vaughan
Irene Stotts	Mabel Wright

Planning for EM's Future

The East Montpelier Planning Commission released a town survey in February as one step to help in the completion of a new town plan which needs to be adopted by June 2013. The survey, that not useful from a statistical reliability standpoint, is, nonetheless, a way to gauge and characterize the opinions and desires of townspeople on a number of issues and questions. To all townspeople who completed and returned the survey – THANK YOU!

Benedict Koehler (continued from page 1)

Benedict and his business partner, David Quinn, of New York, do not have a website. Their business philosophy is to do the best work possible at all times, always try to learn how to do it better, and to take good care of their customers after the sale. These satisfied customers have made a website unnecessary. Benedict explains, "In a business like this, the most important thing is to get it right first of all, and then worry about how much money you're making, because the other way around is a recipe for failure. Uilleann piping is a small world, and reputation is everything." He also notes the importance of showing appreciation for the work of other professionals on whom he relies, giving as an example the excellent and friendly service of the East Montpelier Post Office.

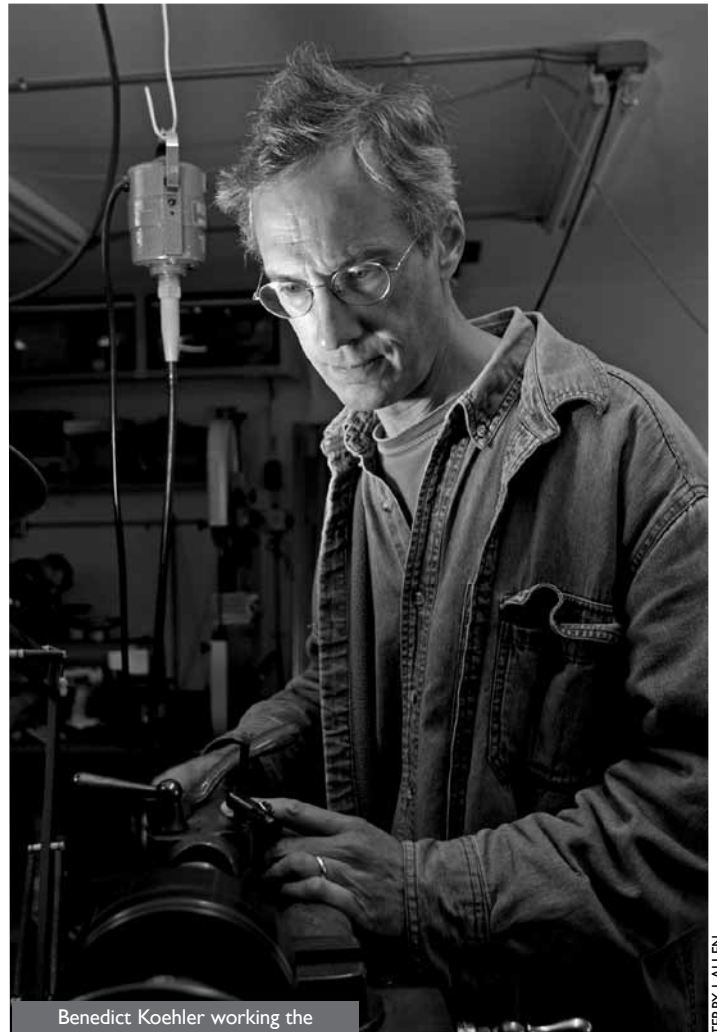
Benedict grew up listening to traditional Irish music and fell in love with it, choosing to play the uilleann pipes, one of the most difficult and contrary instruments a human being can wrestle with. Its devotees say it's like playing an octopus. You move all your fingers, the heel of your hand, your shoulder, your elbows, and of course your foot, for tapping. Various straps connect it to your body. You don't just play the instrument. You wear it.

Making the instrument is as complicated and demanding as playing it. Benedict turns the pipes out of boxwood, rosewood, and ebony; machines the metal ferrules on the lathe; forges nickel or brass keys and their attendant key springs; and constructs bellows of wood and leather. Everything is meticulously engineered as the smallest variation in dimensions can affect performance and tone. Each set of pipes is the product of consummate craftsmanship, great patience, and deep love.

And speaking of love: if you've been to an Irish music concert where Benedict is playing his pipes on stage next to his wife Hilari Farrington and her 31-string Irish harp, you know what love looks like when it is expressed through music. This is the experience they want other musicians to enjoy. Benedict and Hilari light up when they talk about the Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture in Montpelier where they team-teach workshops in Irish music and culture.

Stories Wanted: Disappearing Landmarks

In the September/October issue of the *Signpost* we would like to feature short articles about **old town landmarks** that have disappeared or nearly disappeared. Do you know about a mill, a **quarry**, a **place of business**, or a **special building** that used to be a **well-known landmark**? Would you be willing to write a little something (less than 300 words) about such a place, what it was, and what took place there? A personal note about what you or someone you know remembers in connection with this landmark would make it come alive for us. And if you have a photo, old or in its current state, that would be nice too. Please **contact Barbara Ploof**, 223-6934 or signpostbcp@hotmail.com if you have a landmark in mind that you would be willing to write about. Due July 31.



Benedict Koehler working the

TERRY J ALLEN

At Summit, they emphasize playing traditional tunes with other musicians and musical camaraderie. Their common repertoire thus becomes their students' common language; they'll be able to join Irish music sessions anywhere on earth. Their students may not all be concert-level players of fiddle, flute, button accordion, concertina, mandolin, tenor banjo, or other traditional instruments, but they can all experience the thrill that comes from making music with other people. And making music together may be one of the most nourishing things members of our vexed human race can do for one another.

Watch for Benedict and Hilari in concert in various New England venues including our own Four Corners Schoolhouse. Their joy is infectious. Go and catch some of it. For more information, check out the Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture at www.summit-school.org. For more fun, type "Benedict Koehler" on You Tube and see him play his pipes.

—Rhoda Carroll is an extremely happily retired college professor who lives with her husband, Tim Joslyn, in a solar house in East Montpelier.

We salute the EM road crew for its outstanding work keeping our roads passable and repairing the recent flood damage. Thanks from us all!



Green Up Day 2011 may have set an East Montpelier record for volunteer spirit. At least 437 East Montpelier citizens—including nearly all 250 students from the elementary school, enthusiastic Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, and several multi-generational families—picked up roadside litter and spruced up our community spaces on May 6. These volunteers picked up 3,200 pounds of trash and 89 tires. Each volunteer is a hero for making our town beautiful! Also, our outstanding town highway crew worked on the weekend to cart off the trash. Everyone truly earned and enjoyed a delicious lunch supplied by the Jean and Wes Cate Community Fund Committee.

Generous businesses supported East Montpelier's Green Up: Casella Waste Management, Shaws, Price Chopper, Manghi's Bakery, Dudley's Store, the Riverbend Store, Morse Sugar Works, and Bragg Farm.

Left: GS Troop 30890 with the first of the 25 garbage bags they collected along with tires and other "stuff."

The Senechals (continued from page 1)

Rachel and Wayne spent eleven years in Maine together, marrying, and having their children, Hannah and Tom. It was the lure of the mountains, the snow, and a job within the Vermont State Colleges that drew them to East Montpelier. They chuckled remembering Hannah's memorable first day of school. "We put Hannah on the bus and waved her off to kindergarten in a new school. Then we went to close on our house, finishing just in time to welcome Hannah back to her new home."

Rachel, new to town and eager to meet people and support the school community that Hannah and Tom would grow up in, jumped right into volunteering. She was a parent reader in the classrooms and still fondly remembers those days in Ann Parker's second-third- grade classroom, and the endearing habit of youngsters leaning into a friendly shoulder for moral support as they venture into reading. Before she knew it she was a room parent, co-organizer the Holiday Fair, PTO member, and teacher for the ELF Plus Culture program (a precursor to the current Four Winds Program). Over the years the list grew and Rachel worked to support Rally Day, the Recreation Board, and the Four Corners School Board. "Volunteering is a great way to meet people," Jean Cate said. "The secret of getting volunteers is get people when they first move to town!"

Wayne's job as Dean of Administration at Lyndon State College hasn't kept him from finding volunteer opportunities. He was active with the Conservation Advisory Committee and dedicated over a decade of community service to the Plainfield Health Center. "A health center is such a great resource in a rural community." On the board for twelve years, Wayne chaired the board through the renovation campaign that so beautifully expanded the Health Center and created the new dental offices.

Rachel and Wayne's children, Hannah and Tom, grew up adventuring through the woods on foot or on skis to school and haven't stopped adventuring since. Tom has enjoyed backpacking in Eastern Europe and New Zealand and is currently finishing an Individualized BA program at Goddard College with a focus on education reform.

Hannah graduated from Massachusetts College of Art and has let her love of art and travel lead her around the globe. In the last few years she's worked at a bakery in Ireland, painted a mural in a castle in the French Alps, studied in Italy, biked across the USA, couch surfed in Morocco, and has landed herself (for now) in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, working as a barista and doing graphic design for City Feed and Supply.

Eight years ago, Rachel started working in libraries, first in Waterbury and then at the Kellogg-Hubbard in Montpelier where she is the Program and Development Coordinator. She says it's harder to volunteer now because of her evening schedule at the library, but she still finds time to pursue her other passions: rambles in the woods, photography, and long bike trips with Wayne. They have several favorite routes around central Vermont, and this summer will bike from Buffalo to Albany along the Erie Canal.

So when your paths cross with Rachel or Wayne, in the woods, on the roads, on committees, in the library, at Lyndon State College, or at their lingering Christmas tree farm, please join me in thanking them for their years of dedicated service to the community, and share your favorite bike route or woods route with them!

Karen Liebermann and her husband, Bob Osborne, live on Kelton Road with their three kids (Cricket, Dane, and Una), four goats, 15 chickens, one dog, one cat, and an overgrown garden.

SPRING FLOODS AT THE WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH

by Martha Israel

With the record levels of flooding in Central Vermont this spring, there were fears that our beloved Wrightsville Beach and Recreational Area would be seriously damaged and not available for summer use. Thanks to excellent forethought and some amazing clean-up work by manager Collin O'Neil and his terrific crew, the area sustained no permanent damage. The beach and recreation areas are both in good shape and are ready for a great summer season.

Wrightsville's flood of 2011 set an all-time record for water retention and came about 10 feet short of over-topping the secondary spillway. The water crested at 678 ft above sea level—48 ft above the beach. Since the park floods to a lesser degree on a regular basis, we were prepared for high water, but this extreme flooding put the park facilities to the test. All structures and facilities are either designed to withstand the water's buoyancy and stay put or are tethered so they won't float away.

While most of the facility withstood the flooding as planned, some the forces proved too strong. Picnic tables, a footbridge, the welcome booth, and other small structures sustained some damage, which has been repaired. While mending the flood damage, we made some other needed repairs, so the facilities are in really good shape. Over the next few weeks we



will add a fresh coat of stain to cover up the muck; Mother Nature will wash the trees clean, green will cover up the brown silt, and the area will be beautiful again.

In addition to wonderful swimming and relaxing on the beach, the Wrightsville Recreational Area offers canoe and kayak rentals (including life vests), volleyball and softball fields, and picnic tables, grills, and group shelters for larger activities.

The recreation area also has a great new 9-hole disc golf course. So come on over and have fun!

Hours of operation: Open at 9:00 a.m. and closes at dusk. (Check the website for unscheduled closings due to weather.)
Fees: 0-2 years free, 3-12 years \$1, 13-64 years \$2, 65 and up \$1
* Children under 14 must be supervised by an adult (a person 18 years of age or older).

For more information, see the Wrightsville Beach Recreational Area website: <http://www.wrightsvillebeachvt.com/http://www.wrightsvillebeachvt.com/>

Martha Israel is EM representative to the Wrightsville Recreational Area Planning Board. Contact her at oldcapefarm@gmail.com

Seeking WW II Military Women

The Historical Society is preparing to conduct **video interviews with Mabel Wright and Marion Codling** about their experiences as **women in the service during WW II**.

We plan to include an interview with **Pam Dunkling** about her mother, **Gladys**, and the records Gladys left. Mable, Marion and Gladys are the only ones known to the Society as having served during that period, but **there may be others**.

If you served or know of anyone from EM who did, living or not, we would like to know.
Contact David Coburn 223-6886 or Anne Ormsbee 223-5372.

Paulie's Recipe

Dixie Baked Tomatoes

from the Community Cookbook of the Friendly Circle, North Montpelier

1 cup corn
5 tomatoes
1 teaspoon butter

1 green pepper
salt, paprika

Cut off the tops of the tomatoes and scoop out the centre. Remove seeds from the green peppers and chop peppers. Cook in butter for five minutes. Season corn and add cooked peppers. Pack this mixture into the tomatoes. Replace tops and bake 30 minutes. (In a 350 degree oven.)

Town Offices

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651
Phone: 802-223-3313
Office Hours: Mon–Thurs 9 AM–5 PM
Friday 9 AM–12 PM

Town Clerk/Treasurer: Terri Conti
eastmonttct@comcast.net

Town Administrator:
eastmontadmin@comcast.net

Zoning Administrator: Dina Bookmyer-Baker
eastmontza@comcast.net

Collector of Delinquent Taxes: Karen Gramer
karengramer@comcast.net

Fire Permits: EMFD 225-6247

First Constable/Animal Control Officer:
Sandy Conti 479-3169

2nd Constable: Paul Haynes 223-1651

Listers: Rob Chickering, Putnam Clayton, Ross Hazel
223-3313 x206, eastmontlstr@comcast.net

Health Officer: Dave Grundy 476-4300

Service Officer: Rachael Grossman
223-3177

Selectboard

Bruce Johnson, Chair
savage1@pshift.com

Carl Etnier	Peter Hill
Seth Gardner	Casey Northrup

Planning Commission

Rick Hopkins, Chair, 229-4375

Development Review Board

Richard Curtis, Chair
rcurtis841@comcast.net

U-32 Jr./Sr. High School

Ginny Burley gburley@u32.org
Emily Goyette egoyette@u32.org

Elementary School

Rubin Bennett, Acting Chair
rbennett@thatitguy.com

Andrea Colnes
Trevor Lewis
Stephen Looke

State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032
twk@tonyklein.com

Town Weathervane

MILESTONES

Births

- Paxton Lee Sherman, son, born on March 2, 2011, to Evelyn Marie Dixon & Zachary Scott Sherman.
- Burton William Spooner, IV, son, born on March 4, 2011, to Monique Karen Trepanier & Burton William Spooner, III.
- Wilder Wolcott Kiper Phelps, son, born on April 17, 2011, to Katherine Mary Phelps & Christopher Lee Kiper.
- Michael Vincent Bliss, son, born on May 16, 2011, to Jennifer Jean & Cole Vincent Bliss.

Deaths

- Raylene C. Blanc, died April 15, 2011, sister of T. Wayne Clark.
- Mary G. Brenneman, died May 4, 2011, spouse of Walter "Ted" Brenneman (former County Rd. resident).
- James Grundy, died May 17, 2011, spouse of Nancy Bruce, son of David & Darlene Grundy, brother of Matthew Grundy.
- Leon J. Boucher, died May 23, 2011, spouse of Jean Marie Cyr Boucher, father of Lynda Boucher Downing, Donald, Randy & Todd Boucher.

Property Transfers

- David L. & Judith A. Joly to David L. & Judith A. Joly Trust dated 10/3/96, 2.04 acres & dwelling, Pine Ridge Rd.
- David R. Gallison & Janelle A. Stewart to Eric W. Ryea & Donna A. Smyers, spring rights & septic isolation, Center Rd.
- Bancroft Stock Farm/Joanne H. Bair to Joanne H. Bair, 1.9 acres, Adamant Rd.
- Roy D. & Joanne H. Bair to Betsy W. Blackshaw, 345 acres, dwelling & farm buildings, Center Rd.
- Joanne H. Bair to Betsy W. Blackshaw, 1.9 acres, Adamant Rd.
- Betsy W. Blackshaw to Roy D. & Joanne H. Bair, 347.9 acres, dwelling & farm buildings, Center Rd.
- Fecteau Residential Inc. d/b/a Fecteau Homes to Leonard & Elsie Giroux, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Martin K. & Edith A. Miller to Martin K. & Edith A. Miller, 38 acres & dwelling, Murray Rd.
- Charles T. Wanzer & Lydia W. Faesy to Charles T. Wanzer & Lydia W. Faesy, 37 acres & dwelling, Kelton Rd.
- Stanley R. Pierce to Jeffrey R. Pierce & Jonathan D. Pierce, 2.71 acres & dwelling, Cherry Tree Hill Rd.
- Allen Soule to Vermont River Conservancy Inc., 5 acres, Coburn Rd.
- Erin Clark to Erin Clark & Bobic J. Vander Pyl, 11.1 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
- Eileen C. Morrison to Eileen C. Morrison, (ELE) 7.17 acres & dwelling, Dillon Rd.

- Richard M. & Mary A. Tousignant to Catherine C. Taylor & Charlene C. Anderson, 10.4 acres-Lot 1, Stoney Corners Rd.
- Clifford W. Bowman Trust to James F. Sloan & Sandra J. Barnhart, 10.3 acres, Towne Hill Rd.
- Kenneth J. & Beverly A. Hull to Bonnie L. Vivian, Timothy D. Hull, Cynthia J. Plant-Dunne, David A. Hull, Kathy Karr, Michael A. Hull & Kenneth J. Hull Jr., (LE) 42.39 acres & dwelling, Sanders Circle.
- Audrey Pike to Wallace H. & Claire Hinch, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- David & Elizabeth Swenson to Catherine C. Taylor & Charlene D. Anderson, 3.3 acres, Stoney Corners Rd.
- Shawn Norman to Robert Phillips, 5.1 acres, Mays Way.
- Lucy Wheeler, Estate of, to Richard M. Czaplinski, 18.4 acres & dwelling, Sodom Pond Rd.
- John F. Stone to Priscilla W. Carr & Susan W. Carr, 6 acres, Bliss Rd.
- Timothy A. Bigelow to Kimberlee A. Bigelow, 4.2 acres & dwelling, Horn of the Moon Rd.

SELECTBOARD

March 21, 2011

Motions Passed:

- to approve excess weight permits for Spafford & Sons, HA Manosh Corp, and Richard Home Supply.
- to approve excess weight permits and add the Coburn Road limitations.
- to appoint Bruce Johnson as interim Town Administration Assistant effective 3-18-11 at the hourly wage of \$23.99.
- to amend the 2-7-11 minutes of ZA's statement.
- to go into executive session for a personnel matter.

April 18, 2011

Motions Passed:

- to adopt the Selectboard Rules of Transaction as amended.
- to adopt the revised Town Road and Bridge Standards for East Montpelier.
- to adopt the Financial Plan as presented.
- to authorize the chair to sign the Mallory Brook request.
- to authorize the chair to sign the application for the County Road paving.
- to appoint the four people as noted on the appointment list: Don Welch and Carol Welch, Central Vermont State Police Community Advisory Board; Janice Aldrich and Kathy Richardson, Recreation Board.
- to appoint Marlene Betit to fill out the position of auditor until March 2012.

- to approve the excess weight permits for Newton Construction, Hutch Crane, Black Rock, Donald Giroux's, Dubois Construction, and Green Mountain Power.
- to approve the liquor license for Riverbend Store.
- to authorize Seth Gardner to sign warrants for revised checks for Fairpoint and McGee.

April 21, 2011

- Special joint meeting with Calais Selectboard to discuss construction issues at the Emergency Services Facility.

U-32

March 2, 2011

Motions Approved:

- to make the following appointments - Ginny Burley: board chairperson; Allen Gilbert: board vice-chair; Adrienne Magida: board clerk; Conrad Smith: representative to the Washington Central Executive Committee and Adrienne Magida as alternate; Conrad Smith, Adrienne Magida, and Ginny Burley: voting members of the WCSU full board; Mark Berry, representative and Ginny Burley, alternate to the Washington Central Negotiations Committee; Mark Berry, representative to the Washington Central Policy Committee; Conrad Smith, representative to the Washington Central Transportation Committee; Dan Violette, truant officer; Susan "Charlie" Catlin, district clerk; Ed Deegan and Peter Hood, the school district auditors, no motion made to appoint a third auditor; Ginny Burley, representative to the Barre Technical Center Regional Advisory board; U-32 Board Committee Members will remain the same until a board member from Berlin is appointed: Finance Committee: Allen Gilbert (chair), Ginny Burley, Conrad Smith, Emily Goyotte; Policy Committee: Mark Berry (chair),

- Allen Gilbert; Curriculum Committee: Adrienne Magida (chair), Emily Goyette; Facilities & Capital Budget Committee: Conrad Smith (chair), Ginny Burley; Personnel Committee: Mark Berry (chair), Ginny Burley; Negotiations Committee: Mark Berry (chair), Ginny Burley; Co curricular Committee: Emily Goyette (chair), Adrienne Magida.
- to set meeting date and time on first and third Wed. of each month @ 6:00 p.m.;
- designate official postings as the *Times Argus* and the town offices of the WCSU district towns
- to approve the minutes of 2-16,-11

March 16, 2011

Motions Approved:

- to approve the minutes of 3-2-11 school board meeting.
- to appoint Jason Reichert as 1.0 math teacher.
- to appoint George Cook as 1.0 business education teacher.
- to appoint Brian Divelbliss as 1.0 physical education teacher.
- to approve the board orders as presented.

April 6, 2011

Motions Approved:

- to approve, as edited, the minutes of the 3-16-2011.
- to accept with regret the resignations of Sally DeCicco, Middle School administrative assistant, and Doug Peck, food service.
- to approve the reductions in force of Beth Allen and Gillian Thomas as presented. Both teachers will be offered contracts for next year, each with 0.1 FTE less than their present contracts.
- to approve the spring and fall coaches as presented.
- to approve the request of George Olson to resign 0.2 of his 0.4 FTE teaching position effective for the 2011-12 school year.

- to appoint - Dennis Fournier: Maintenance & Mechanic; Katherine Walker: 0.2 FTE Math Teacher; Nicolle Schaeffer: 0.2 FTE Social Studies Teacher.
- to approve Adam French's request for a one year leave of absence to study in Bogata, Columbia.
- to approve the Board Orders as presented.
- to warn the 4-20-11 board meeting as a board retreat.
- to approve the administration's recommendation with regard to Erin Galligan-Baldwin's leave of absence request.
- appoint Karen Vigue to fill a paraeducator position for remainder of this school year.
- to approve the board orders as presented.

PLANNING COMMISSION

February 15, 2011

Motions Approved:

- to grant the conditional use permit for the Soule Property/Kingsbury Branch with the condition that no significant fill occur within the flood zone.
- to uphold the Zoning Administrator's denial of the application of Duane Wells, #10-082, to put a second house and garage on said property based on the same findings of the ZA based on her letter dated 1-27-11.
- to approve minutes of 12-7-10 as amended.

March 3, 2011

- The following Planning Commission officers were elected unanimously: Rick Hopkins, chair; Jean Vissering, vice chair; Kim Watson, corresponding secretary.

Motions Approved:

- to re-adopt the Planning Commission Rules of Procedure and Ethics of the town of East Montpelier.
- to accept minutes of February 17, 2011, as amended.

East Montpelier Fire District #1

We have taken another key step in acquiring the Crystal Springs Water Company in the Village. A Request for Proposal/Feasibility Study was sent to several local engineering firms for assessing the water system in its present state and to propose options to bring it into full compliance and address future construction concerns. Part of this process includes looking into funding sources to finance the purchase of the water system and any necessary construction through the State and USDA.

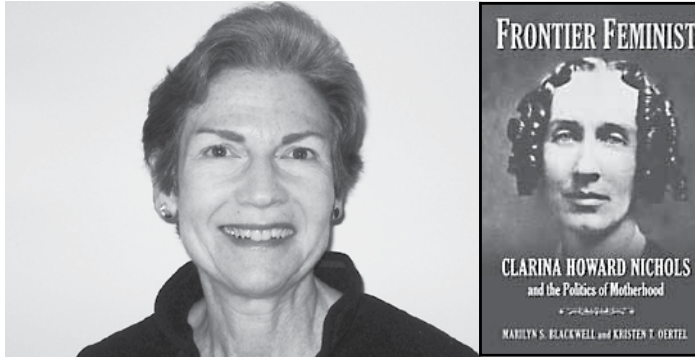
The Fire District Prudential Committee continues to closely follow the Route 14 South bridge replacement proj-

ect. As of this writing, we are under the impression that the present owner of Crystal Springs has reached a tentative agreement with VAOT that will have the state assuming design and construction costs of moving the existing water line from in the river to a new underground boring. This will accommodate construction of a temporary bridge while the new one is built.

As always, if anyone has questions or concerns, please attend one of our monthly meetings, on the second Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. at the new Fire Station. For more information, please visit: www.emfiredistrict.org.

—Steve Gilman, Chair, East Montpelier Fire District #1

Writers in Our Midst



We have many talented artists in EM. In the next few *Signposts*, we'd like to introduce authors of recent books to our neighbors. If you have published a book within the last year or know of someone who has, please contact us. We begin with historian Lyn Blackwell's description of her new work.

How many *Signpost* readers are familiar with Clarina Howard Nichols, the first woman to address the Vermont Legislature? Today she is the namesake of the women's shelter in Morrisville, but what exactly was her claim to fame? That's what, as an historian, I set out to discover when I began researching Nichols's life nearly ten years ago. In my recently-published biography, *Frontier Feminist: Clarina Howard Nichols and the Politics of Motherhood*, I have tried to bring this woman's pioneering story to light.

Back in 1983, I coauthored *Across the Onion: A History of East Montpelier, Vermont, 1781-1981*, with my neighbor Ellen Hill. This second book is another joint project, but this time

my coauthor, historian Kristen Oertel, lives in Tulsa, OK. While the first book arose from kitchen-table conferences, yellow notepads and a typewriter, the second was produced via email, electronic files, and laptops.

The biography details Clarina Nichols's early life and career as the "Lady Editress" from Brattleboro who promoted temperance, women's rights, and antislavery in the late 1840s. Driven by her own experience of domestic abuse and divorce, a shameful event in her day, Nichols championed mothers who lacked rights to property, wages, and children. By the time she addressed the Vermont Legislature in 1852, she was fully engaged in male politics and advocated women's right to vote in school meetings.

Though not as well known as her friend and colleague Susan B. Anthony, Nichols eventually moved across the country to Kansas and California, promoting universal rights and pioneering women's politics while also affirming their roles as wives and mothers. Most famously, she wrote a clause in the Kansas Constitution that allowed women the school rights Vermont legislators had denied.

If you want to learn more, I will be talking about Nichols's career and my book at the Washington County History Fair on Saturday, July 16, at the Vermont Museum in Montpelier, where Nichols is featured in the permanent exhibit.

—A resident of Center Rd. since 1973, historian Lyn Blackwell, Ph.D., has taught at UVM and CCV and continues to write about Vermont and women's history.

Selectboard Update

The torrential rains of May 26-27, coupled with the saturated ground, led to massive damage to our roads, especially on the east side of town. Road Foreman Mike Garand, his crew, plus outside contractors worked almost non-stop to bring our roads back to a semblance of normalcy within ten days, with only Clark and Muddy Brook Roads (along with state-maintained VT Route 14 South) remaining closed as of June 5. Mike would appreciate continued patience and cautious driving as the road crew continues to repair the extensive damage. He would also like to thank all of the concerned citizens who called the town garage with damage reports and hopes they understand that he wasn't able to personally contact every person who called in. The cost of the repairs will be significant with preliminary estimates in the \$250,000-\$500,000 range. Although the town will have to cover the costs upfront (through the use of both our current fund balance and line of credit), we anticipate that some combination of state and federal disaster relief funds will be available to reimburse a substantial portion of the expense.

An update on road conditions is available on the *Signpost* website at www.emsignpost.com.

Chief John Audy's fire and rescue crews provided superb service to our citizens during the aftermath of the storm. We're fortunate to have such a dedicated group to rely on during difficult circumstances. The Emergency Services Facility is now one year old and functioning effectively as proven by its successful use as the emergency operations center for the recent storm event despite loss of both phone and electrical service. This beautiful community-constructed facility has had a few growing pains, but the EMFD, Connor Contracting, and the Calais and East Montpelier Selectboards are working together to resolve any lingering issues.

You've probably noticed an uptick in the number of East Montpelier-themed articles in the *Times Argus*. We now have a reporter at every selectboard meeting so you can expect this trend to continue.

—Bruce Johnson, Chair Selectboard

EMES Has a New Principal

Dear East Montpelier Community:

I am honored to be part of your community as the instructional leader of EMES. The community and parental involvement is commendable and, most likely, a key to your success. The following are my leadership beliefs, dispositions, and attitudes.

- **For Students:** I believe all students can be held to the highest standards. They should be expected to take responsibility for their own and each other's learning as instructional resources for one another. Every child "learns how to learn."

- **For Teachers:** The professional teaching culture is that of continuous improvement. Teachers are encouraged to take risks, collaborate, team-teach, reflect on practices, and assume leadership roles. Teachers are passionate about learning.

- **For Community Partners:** Schools with community and parental support thrive. When challenges arise in areas such as budget, building issues, and policy, common ground is easily reached and resolved. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to be part of the school community.

- **Learning Environment:** There is an assurance of equity of instruction; all students are provided equal opportunities. Social, emotional, and physical needs are addressed and supported. A safe and healthy learning environment is instrumental in the success of every child and adult. There is a sense of trust between adults and children.

- **Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment:** Curriculum takes content and shapes it into a plan to engage teaching and learning. It is a "map" to achieve desired outcomes for student performance. Embedded within the curriculum is a balanced assessment system with summative, common, benchmark, and formative assessments. Curricula and assessment decisions are driven by data.

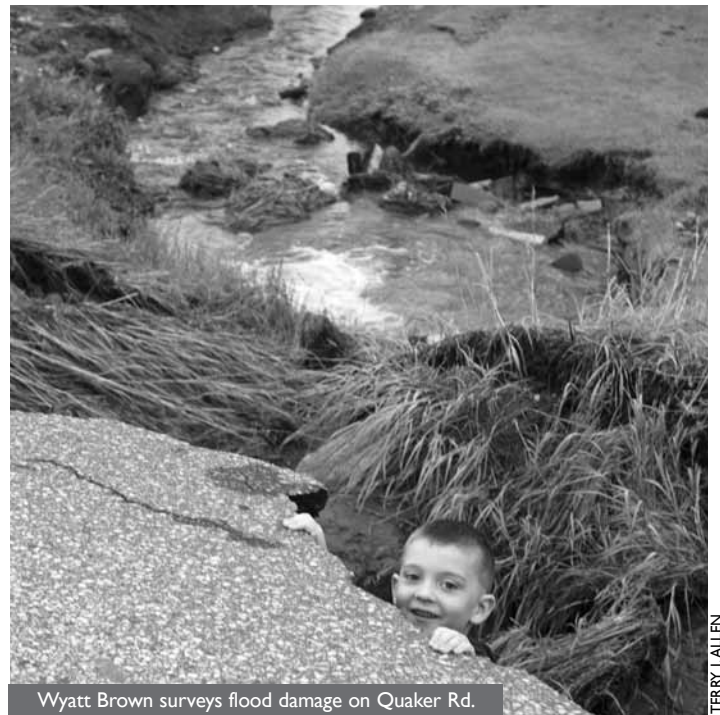
- **For the Principal:** As principal, I have a deep understanding of teaching practices and precise knowledge of what effective teaching looks like so that I can guide teachers and "model the way." A principal encourages, inspires, and motivates others for a common vision. By doing so, she empowers others to take action, share leadership, and celebrate. To be successful, the instructional leader is transparent, student-centered, trustworthy, respectful, and the lead learner. The principal structures and designs resources while managing with the common mission. A principal loves kids and is fun too!

On a personal note, I live in Waterford with my husband, Scott. We have four grown children: Lindsay, Katherine, Celia, and Shaun. We are blessed with a grandson, Gauge, 9 months old.

I earned a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from UVM in 2009. As an educator in Vermont for 29 years, I have a strong background in literacy, professional development, leadership, and special education, as well as best practices in curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Please feel free to stop in anytime to introduce yourself; my door will always be open.

—Marion Anastasia, EMES Principal



Wyatt Brown surveys flood damage on Quaker Rd.

TERRY J. ALLEN

Rejuvenate East Village

The more than 30 participants who attended two forums held this spring were enthusiastic about the potential for the East Village (where Routes 2 and 14 meet) and generated many ideas.

Short-term goals include identifying and creating a safer center by installing "village" signs, lowering the speed limit within the village, and developing a park and ride facility, thereby increasing parking and transportation alternatives. Participants would also like to highlight the village's architecture with historic markers. Also mentioned was holding Rally Day in East Village this year to celebrate the new green space, sidewalks, fire station, village history, and the Winooski River.

Participants also developed five-year goals for enhancing the "workability" and livability of the village, recommending the creation of pedestrian and bike paths for travel within the village and connecting to nearby resources such as the school, uses of the green to include a farmers' market, as well as a Riverwalk along and bridge across the Winooski River. Providing activities and housing for seniors is considered very important as are new residences and businesses including a restaurant or café.

The twenty-year goal is a desirable village that is attractive, vibrant, and compact, with residences and businesses supported with sidewalks, lighting, parking, underground utilities, potable water, and a wastewater system.

The Village Committee meetings are open to everyone and usually are held on alternate Wednesdays at 3 p.m. at the new firehouse. An evening schedule for a yet-to-be-formed Wastewater Committee will be announced soon. Please contact Jean Vissering (jeanviss@attglobal.net) or Michelle McFadden (michellemcfadden@comcast.net) for more information.

Think About Sharing

Home Share Now has good news for East Montpelier: they've expanded their mission to include people of all ages. As gas prices continue to rise, residents of our rural community can now turn to home sharing to keep spending under control and lower carbon footprints. Another cost effective and environmentally friendly way a home-share partner can help is in the garden, growing food together.

Home owners may wonder, who will move in with me? Many different home seekers join Home Share Now. The bottom line is, the person who moves in will be someone whom you choose to live in your home. That's the focus of Home Share Now's proven process. After thorough interviews, background checks, and multiple introductions, together you and your match-partner make the choice to build a home sharing relationship.

Norma Raymond of East Montpelier and Rowen Hurley, a manager at the Hunger Mountain Coop, are glad they made that choice. Rowen says, "When I started looking for new housing, I thought, wouldn't it be nice if I could help someone out a little and share housing, too? It was a very easy process of applying and meeting prospective homeowners. At my second appointment, I was really surprised by how much Norma and I liked each other. I guess it's too simple to say, but it's all about the relationship. Norma and I hit it off. It's been a very nice arrangement for me." Norma is also content with the match. She observes, "I'm just really happy we got off to a good start, respecting each other's needs and limits from the beginning."

Home Share Now's staff and volunteers help every match get off to a good start. Learn more at www.homesharenow.org or call 802-479-8544.

—Ginny Sassaman

Communications Specialist, Home Care Now

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Meet your neighbors, **learn to use a GPS** device, and provide a great service to your town! East Montpelier has won a grant for geologic mapping that will help us better understand our groundwater resources and how to protect our natural environment. We need volunteers to accurately locate residential wells in EM. Adults (and high school students under adult supervision) willing to volunteer a few hours, please contact Paul Erlbaum at garlicmountain@gmail.com or 223-3177.

The Planning Commission needs help from townspeople who can volunteer their time and knowledge during **preparation of the 2013 town plan**. Contact any member of the Planning Commission to learn how you can get involved.

Girls/Boyz First Mentoring is looking for fun and positive adults who would enjoy **spending time with a young person** once a week. For more information, please contact Wendy Farber at 229-4798 or go to communityconnections.us and click on mentoring programs.

The Fairmont Flying Service



On September 1, 1946, Charles Ormsbee took his children Richard and Marilyn to the Fairmont Flying Service where they "went for a plane ride," according to a family diary.

(Conrad stayed home to do the milking.) Another fine day in 1947 Carroll Coburn took his son David to the airport to see a Waco Bi-plane, a Taylorcraft (similar to a Piper Cub), and other planes, and to take a \$10 plane ride over the Coburn farm.

Airport in East Montpelier? To learn about it and the family that operated it, please come to the Washington County History Fair, to be held Saturday, July 16, 2011, at the Pavilion in Montpelier from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.. The Fairmont Flying Service will be the subject of East Montpelier's exhibit at the Fair. The Fair is free. Hope to see you there!

The "rest of the story" on Fairmont Flying Service will also be featured in the September/October *Signpost* along with other articles on EM places of interest no longer in existence. Visit the website at www.eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org for other interesting EM stories.

—Anne Ormsbee, EM Historical Society

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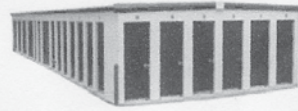
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 • Organizations in town

Volume XXI—Number Six
 July/August 2011

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink

EVENTS

June-Aug., Swimming lessons

Montpelier Pool, \$10 rebate per child, contact Phillip Heinz, phillip.heinz@gmail.com and Ben Winters, bencadcut@com

Sat. July 16, 10 am, 4pm

Pavilion Auditorium, Montpelier: The Washington County History Fair.

Sat. July 30

start at Montpelier Rec Field, 8th Annual Onion River Century Ride to benefit the Kellogg-Hubbard Library

Fri., Aug. 12, 10pm

at Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Perseid Meteor Shower Party (Cloud date, Saturday August 13.) For details call 802-223-4665

WWW.EMSIGNPOST.COM

Check it out: **www.emsignpost.com**. East Montpelier announcements welcome. To be notified of new announcements, join the e-mail list. Look under “contacts” for Jennifer Boyer and give her your e-mail address.
It’s a great way to know what is happening in town.

NOTICE

Unclaimed Property and Monies

Please check the Vt State Treasurer’s website <http://www.vermonttreasurer.gov/> for your name! There are quite a few East Montpelier Residents on the list. Check it out!

Wanted Donations of unused or unneeded animal carriers, kennels, fencing, etc. The Town’s Animal Control Officers could use these items to carry out their duties.

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon., July 4, Independence Day – Town Clerk’s Office closed

Mon. Sept. 5, Labor Day – Town Clerk’s Office closed

KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY

Summer hours: Memorial—Labor Day

Adult library: Mon.-Thurs. 10am-8pm, Fri. 10am-5:30pm, Sat. 10am-pm.

Children’s library: Mon.-Fri. 10am-5:30pm, Sat. 10am-1pm.

www.kellogghubbard.org , 802-223-4665.

Deadline for Next Issue: August 1, 2011, to Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, signpostbcp@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	6:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Development Review Board (DRB)	1st & 3rd Tues	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed	6:00 p.m.	U-32 School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	3rd Mon	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School
East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)	Every Tues	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
East Montpelier Fire District #1	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
Recreation Board	2nd Mon	7:15 p.m.	Elementary School
Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	as needed	7:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
East Montpelier Historical Society	3rd Mon	7:00 p.m.	Town Office/East Calais
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners School
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)	1st Wed	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School