

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXX—Number Three

January/February 2020

Anne Flanders: Neighbor Extraordinaire

Renee Kievit-Kylar

Anne Flanders was the third person ever interviewed for the East Montpelier *Signpost* thirty years ago. I had the privilege of being her neighbor, friend, and a part of the extended Flanders clan on Brazier Road for many years. Anne passed away more than fifteen years ago. You can read the original *Signpost* interview at www.emsignpost.com/archives in the Jan/Feb 1991 issue.

Why was this small, wiry woman with a contagious smile, hair coiled into a bun and held together with bobby pins, chosen to be interviewed as the *Signpost* was finding its footing? I spoke with Naomi Flanders, Anne's eldest daughter, to answer this question. Naomi recalled moments from her growing up and memories about her parents and how they participated in community life in East Montpelier. Mixed in with my own recollections, the two themes that emerged were connectedness and gratitude.

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Anne, from the Jan/Feb 1991 issue

Signpost's First Business: Current Update

Alex Brown



Alex Brown

Larry with current equipment

Thirty years ago, the *Signpost's* first issue included a story on Larry Brown and his printing company, then housed in a former barn in East Montpelier (see www.emsignpost.com/archives Sept/Oct 1990). Brown, now 72, is still in the printing business, and his wife and daughter are still on staff. Printing has changed a great deal, but Brown has steered his business to keep up with it.

L. Brown and Sons Printing is now based in Barre, but Brown still lives in East Montpelier, and his company has printed every issue of the *Signpost* since the publication began. But some things have changed—the newsletter you're holding is printed with a digital process, and the change from conventional ink to toner is an example of Larry Brown's investments in new technology.

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476-3164

Top of the *Signpost*

In case you haven't noticed, the Top of the *Signpost* for the first issue of each new calendar year tends to be more than slightly repetitious. However, the message shared each year is one that is always timely and, to me, very important.

The start of a new year, just like the beginning of school in the fall, creates a real energy and anticipation. For me that includes looking forward to Town Meeting Day in early March and the preparation for it. Fifty years ago, when I was living in Stowe, I attended my first Vermont Town Meeting, and I was hooked. The notion of being able to participate directly in decisions affecting one's town, and, therefore, one's daily life, was very appealing to me; and, I discovered, it was very easy to get involved in town boards and committees. I volunteered to be an appointee to the Stowe Planning Commission that same year (1970) and never looked back. Since moving to East Montpelier in 1975, I have participated on many of its boards and committees through the years, and my time spent has been satisfying and productive. All this history simply gives a context to my exhortation to each and every one of you to consider serving your town. You will surely gain much more than you give.

Below, I have noted the officers we'll be electing on March 3. In addition to the satisfaction provided by these jobs, you will have the added benefit of visiting with neighbors you might not see every day as you collect the signatures needed on your petition. (See the due dates for petitions on the last page of this *Signpost*.) In addition, there are both standing and ad hoc committees covering everything from funding requests to cemetery maintenance to zoning exceptions that should tap the interest and expertise of just about anyone. All this is detailed on the town website at www.eastmontpeliervt.org.

East Montpelier needs you. Please consider running for one of the following offices.

Town Moderator, 1-year term
Selectboard Members, one 3-year term, one 2-year term
Selectboard Member, 1 year of 2-year term
Lister, 3-year term
Auditor, 3-year term
First Constable, 1-year term
Second Constable, 1-year term
Planning Commissioners, three 3-year terms
WCUUSD Board, one 3-year term

P.S. With regard to signing petitions, our town clerk reminds us of a new state law that allows voters to sign any number of petitions for candidates running for the same or different offices. This change encourages people to run for office and removes the onus of citizens having to choose between people who want to make a run.

—Eddie Miller is a long time EM volunteer



Alex Brown

Town Meeting Votes Brought by Selectboard: Conservation Commission and Appointed Constable

The selectboard is planning to bring two articles to a vote via Australian ballot on town meeting day in March. One would establish a conservation commission in town, and the other would change the position of constable from an elected position to an appointed position.

Over 100 towns have a conservation commission, according to town resident and former state naturalist Charles Johnson. The commission can inventory natural resources in town, recommend land purchases or conservation, assist the planning commission and selectboard with a wide range of conservation-related activities, and more. Johnson said at a December 1 town forum that the idea of creating a conservation commission had been discussed since the 1980s, and he and others thought it was time to bring it up for more formal discussion and a vote.

At the forum, planning commission chair Julie Potter said the planning commission would welcome a conservation commission to take on important work that neither the planning commission nor the selectboard has time to prioritize. Town resident Gianna Petito, manager of Winooski Natural Resources District, said a town conservation commission would make it easier to procure conservation funding and would help inform and shape priorities in the whole district.

The twenty or so residents at the forum had a long history of working on conservation-related issues, and their consensus was that a conservation commission would be helpful, and that it's important to allow existing conservation-related committees (e.g., the Conservation Fund Advisory Committee and the Forest Committee) to continue their work.

The initiative to make the town constable an appointed position comes from a recent alarming experience. The town constable is granted only minor legal powers, like killing injured deer or removing disruptive people from town meeting. In 2004, the town voted "to prohibit the Town's constables from exercising any law enforcement authority." However, the town received information from multiple sources that the constable was stopping people on the road and acting as if he had police powers, and doing so in a way that distressed the people stopped. The constable both confirmed the accounts reported and volunteered other instances when he had acted like a police officer on town roads.

The selectboard was greatly disturbed that a town officer was apparently acting without authority in this way, but we have no legal power over separately elected officials. Voters have no power to remove a constable, either, before the end of his three-year term. Fortunately, in this case, the constable chose to resign.

To assure that future constables work within the limitations set by the town, the selectboard recommends making the position an appointed one.

—Carl Etnier is a selectboard member

Good Food with Neighbors

Happy New Year to one and all! Well, what d'ya know, in just two months is the venerable town meeting and, lest we forget, a chance to feast on the best home cooking. Where, might you ask? Well, at the famed Town Potluck Lunch! Mark this very important date on your calendar: Tuesday March 3, at East Montpelier Elementary School. This is a call for volunteers to help at the potluck with set-up, preparation, serving, and clean up. Call Sue Racanelli at 225-6032 or racanellis@gmx.com.

Potluck Details

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2020

Location: East Montpelier Elementary School Cafeteria

Meals: Your choice of appetizers, salads, main dishes, sides, bread/rolls, dessert. Your contribution should feed 8–10 guests.

Cost: Free with food contribution, if not, \$5 for the best meal in town!

Questions: contact Sue Racanelli, 802-225-6032 or racanellis@gmx.com.

Be the Next Green Up Day Coordinator!

Green Up Day is May 2, 2020, and I am looking to recruit a Co-Coordinator who can take over my position. You must live in East Montpelier, be at least 18 years old, and have the willingness to meet and get to know your fellow townspeople.

This is a volunteer job, and the basic functions are: distribution of posters and bags provided by Green Up Vermont, identifying areas to clean up, recruiting volunteers to help, and tracking simple statistics. In the process of making this happen, you will work with both the town and community. There are a number of key tasks to be done. Place a few articles in Front Porch Forum, enlist businesses to hang posters, designate areas requiring cleanup, identify roads being greened-up, coordinate trucks to help with large items, refer people to the Green Up website, and always stress safety. Most importantly, on Green Up Day itself, you will need volunteers to help sort trash and keep track of bags, people, and sites.

Celebrating 50 years in 2020, Green Up Day is one of the most successful and long-running state programs that brings out thousands of people to remove litter and trash from our roadways. Organizing Green Up Day is a great way to give back to your community or add to your resume.

Call me at 802-793-6687 or email jumpinracflash@gmail.com. I look forward to answering your questions and will make sure you are comfortable learning the ropes before you take on the position of Coordinator.

—Chris Racanelli is the current Green Up Day Coordinator

What is Happening with the Zoning Update Project?

Thank you to everyone who provided comments on the draft zoning districts, either at the public open houses in the spring or in written comments. The Planning Commission (PC) has heard and is considering everyone's comments.

The PC understands that there is support for some aspects of the draft regulations – and substantial opposition to other aspects. The PC has been reviewing and reworking the draft revision with the Town Plan and all of the public comments in mind. This is a slow process and will likely extend through most of 2020.

Meanwhile, the town's zoning continues as it has been. State law requires an extensive public process and multiple public hearings before zoning regulations can be amended. Notices of public meetings and hearings will be made on the town website, Front Porch Forum, and the *Signpost* (timing permitting).

The PC meets at the town office at 7 pm on the first and third Thursday of the month. Agendas and minutes are posted on the town website. The public is always welcome at these meetings, and there is time for public comments at the beginning of each meeting.

—Julie Potter is chair of the Planning Commission

Is Your Dog #1? We think so!



The 2019 #1 Dog, Tucker Colman

It's time for the 2nd Annual East Montpelier #1 Dog Tag Raffle. Traditionally, the Town Clerk's dog has received the #1 tag each year when new licenses are issued. Every dog licensed between January 2 and April 1 will be automatically entered to win a prize package and have their photo featured on the Town Clerk's webpage and in the Town Office reception area.

Here's how it works. License your dog before April 2. You will be given a new tag at that time. On April 2, the Town Clerk will draw a random tag number from those already licensed. The dog's owner with the chosen tag number will trade the old tag in for the #1 tag and receive the prize package.

Licensing your dog ensures that rabies vaccines are up to date and allows town officials to assist in identifying and/or locating your pup if it gets away from you. A portion of the fees collected goes toward the state's rabies vaccination and low-cost spay/neuter programs.

Licenses are \$9 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$13 for unaltered dogs. Please call 802-223-3313 x 201 if you have questions about licensing your dog.

Active Historical Societies Draw Many Eager Listeners

How did the Adamant Music School come to exist in such a small hamlet as Adamant? Who knows the stories of the many farms that once existed in our town? Is it true that a gruesome murder was committed up on Eagle Ledge between Worcester and Calais? If North Montpelier was once a very vital and thriving community, why does it seem so quiet now? Can you picture a village with houses and local industries where Wrightsville Reservoir now lies?

If you were fortunate enough to attend one or more of the shared meetings of the Calais and East Montpelier Historical Societies between July and November, the answers to these questions were brought to light by informed speakers who have researched our local history. At each program, 40 or more folks packed various venues to learn what has transpired in our towns over the past 100 years or more. The stories were detailed and intriguing. Spurred on by questions from the audience, the presenters took folks back in time with photos and artifacts to learn more about specific events that are now woven into our social fabric.

If you missed all of these riveting sessions, 2020 will provide you with a chance to hear more such stories. Watch for postings about our meetings scheduled for the 3rd Monday of February through November with potluck suppers and captivating tales. For more information contact Sandal Cate at sandal@sover.net. Hope to see you in the New Year.

Thank you, *Signpost* Supporters!

Anne and Conrad Ormsbee

Mary and William Porter

Doris Washburn

Dudley's Store: The Tradition Continues

Ann Stanton



The cover of the East Montpelier Signpost volume 2, #2 (see www.emsignpost.com/archives Nov/Dec 1991), was graced with a big photo of C.P. Dudley's Store and Phyllis Duso's

Celine graduated in 2018, and Angela went off to Colby College that fall. Now, Celine is in charge. Celine says that she enjoys the work, but work it is, both physical and mental. She makes a list every day of what needs to get done, and sometimes the day ends before the list does.

story: "A Tradition of Service." Phyllis traces the store from its founding in 1889 to its growth into a community center of commerce and conviviality (including a soda fountain and two pool tables), the post office, a barn with box stalls for horses, and an ice house at the back of the store. For years in the early-1900s, they operated a home delivery system. Someone went out one day, all the way to County Road, to take orders, came back and packed up the orders, and returned a couple of days later to deliver them. Later, with automobile travel came the addition of seven "Sleepwell Cabins," charging one dollar per person a night.

Fast forwarding, C.P. Dudley and his sons bought the establishment in 1946, the source of its current name. In 1971, Ernest and Gloria Biron bought the store and moved their family into the upstairs living quarters.

The store has been in Biron family hands ever since. After Ernie suffered a disabling accident in 1980, their son Jeff graduated from high school and took over the management, with the assistance of his brother, Tony. In early 2016, Jeff was diagnosed with cancer. His older daughter Angela deferred college for two years to spend time with him and manage the store. Jeff passed away in September 2017 while his younger daughter, Celine, was a senior in high school. Sadly, the Biron family lost Gloria this past November.



Celine Biron (left), her aunt, Penny Copeland, behind the deli counter



C.P. Dudley's Store, from the Nov/Dec 1991 issue

The conviviality goes on, as people stop to chat while picking up a travel mug of hot coffee, or to buy hunting and fishing supplies, cold weather gear, hardware supplies, pet food, and all kinds of other dry goods, food, and beverages.

But let's get to the eating! Many neighbors, commuters, and snowmobilers are repeat customers for the homemade "real food" that is featured at Dudley's deli. Custom-made subs and sandwiches are available seven days a week. Customers can call in their orders for pick up. There is hot soup every day at lunch, as well as lunch specials: Tuesdays and Thursdays it's Italian sausage sandwiches; Wednesdays and Fridays it's cheeseburgers. Back in the day, grandmother (and long-time Dudley's employee) Pauline Lee made all the baked goods, including bread and pies. These days, Pauline and Celine bake holiday pies for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Dudley's store is located down the road from the East Montpelier Town Hall, at 2915 Route 2. The phone number is 223-2792. Stop by from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Sundays. As the old advertising slogan goes: Try It, You'll Like It!

—Ann Stanton is a Signpost volunteer.

It's hard to picture, but East Montpelier was almost totally agrarian when Ralph and Anne first settled on Brazier Road. Naomi remembers it as a "cow path" when she was growing up. Grass grew up in the middle, and the ruts were scary and deep. The area alongside the dirt road had few trees; it was all pasture and open fields. The road was not plowed in winter until someone at town meeting said, "We better begin to plow that road because the red-headed lady up there keeps having babies!" Then, they plowed the road up to the Flanders' driveway. The kids would walk down to meet Norma Raymond and her Model T to be taken to school, and later, meander through the field to the Hawkins Farm to pick up the school bus. Anne would walk across that field to visit with Mrs. Hawkins, who, in return, would walk across after each of Anne's babies was born to check on her. The Flanders kids would bring friends home from school, and Ralph and Anne would eventually meet their parents. In that way, they would learn who needed some extra warm clothing or food when things got rough. On Sundays, a minister and his family from Barton, who were desperately poor, would often stop by and were made to feel welcome at the Flanders' dinner table.

In this agrarian/working-class culture, people chatted and struck up conversations with each other in the small stores, churches, libraries, schools, town meetings, and at whatever work they had. Information and deep relationships developed because of this very personal interaction. Doctors even made house calls when there was serious illness or an accident! The Flanders were not farmers, although Anne had grown up on a farm and had great compassion for that life. But everyone at that time had enormous gardens, put food up, shared excess crops, and focused on basic survival and getting by. They couldn't do it alone. They lived a more isolated existence in terms of the proximity to neighbors but somehow found a way to socialize and have a

wide circle of friends. If you had more, you shared. If you were in need, someone would help. Neighbors would drop by for a cup of coffee if they were anywhere nearby and were always welcomed.

When we first bought land and started building our home, Ralph would wander up toward the end of the day to see how things were going and tell us what Anne had on the stove for dinner. We would be welcomed to join them, which we often did. During a very cold October when we tried moving in before our house was fully finished, Anne insisted that we move in with them until we got things more buttoned up. Through the years, we reaped the benefits of the Flanders' gardens and friendship in many ways, and our son profited from having "Grandma" Anne and "Pop Pop" Ralph close by.

So how is this still relevant today, thirty years later, with four-wheel drive cars that can easily get up even Brazier Road; with many ways to "connect" via telephone, e-mail, text, twitter, Facebook; and with fewer reasons to leave your own home to visit with neighbors, to drop by unannounced?

The lessons are that we actually need connections more now as our lives are moving faster and feeling more hectic and complicated. And how grateful I am for living in a beautiful place like East Montpelier, with a road that gets plowed, sanded, and graded so that I can safely travel in the winter and mud season. Although there are many more of us living on Brazier Road now, I am fortunate to know my neighbors. I can call on them for assistance if needed and give it when asked, as Anne would have hoped we would do. That is what she taught all of us who knew her; that is her legacy.

—Renee Kievit-Kylar has lived with her husband, Doug, on Brazier Road for almost 35 years where they continue to enjoy connecting with their neighbors and meeting new ones.

EAST MONTPELIER TRAILS, INC.

East Montpelier Trail Update

Mallory Brook Trail: We are sad to report that the effort to replace the bridge over the Mallory Brook has stalled. For the foreseeable future we recommend crossing the stream only during low water flow by "fording" or "rock-hopping." We have marked a new section of trail that takes you to a better location for this. Please exercise caution and good judgment when crossing. There may be times when it is not possible to cross. Regular users of this trail will confirm that the Mallory Brook stream flow responds quickly and dramatically to heavy or sustained rain events. The steady rains of June 2019 and subsequent high waters caused significant streambed erosion and carried full size trees crashing into the existing central pier, toppling the staging for the log stringers of the new bridge. When the cables are removed by the landowner, we will be looking for volunteers to help remove the milled lumber from the streambed. Please check our website and Facebook page for notice of work dates in the spring of 2020.

Logging Updates: Logging will occur on the Ormsbee Trail and the Mallory Brook Trail properties during the winter of 2019-2020. We will do our best to ensure that the trails remain open and undisturbed, but please keep a safe distance from the machinery.

For more info see: emtrails.org, www.facebook.com/EastMontpelierTrails

—Mary Stone is president of East Montpelier Trails, Inc.



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Planning Commission

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WCUUSD Board

East Montpelier Representatives:
Lindy Johnson, Flor Diaz Smith

State Representative

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An Attitude of Gratitude

Lisa Gariboldi

It was Friday, August 30, 2019. I had made it through the busy, exciting, first week of school and now it was time to go home and celebrate my son's birthday! That Friday afternoon, I left my first grade classroom in a hurry, knowing we had a long weekend and I would come in to plan and organize for the next week. Oh, how things can change so unexpectedly!

I never made it into school that weekend, or the next week, or even the next two months! I had gone out for a Saturday morning run on the Mallory Brook trail, slipped on some rocks, and completely destroyed my ankle in an instant! I needed surgery to repair the damage and was unable to put weight on it for at least eight weeks, which rendered me unable to work with my awesome first grade class.

I was so upset and worried about what would happen to my class! But I should have known that it would all be just fine. I mean after all, this is EMES, the best place to work, EVER! Our thoughtful principal, Alicia Lyford, immediately went to work with many of our staff to shuffle people around and make sure the children were going to get what they needed. So many staff members changed their schedules and stepped up to help out. It was truly heartwarming and something for which I am so appreciative.

I would like to send out a special "thank you" to some of the people who made my absence in first grade as seamless as possible. Kathy Christy, Christine Christiano, Carrie Fitz, and Laurie Mekkelson, you all are AMAZING! I know how much hard work, time, and energy it took to step up into new roles and do it with a smile and pure professionalism. The kids of EMES and I are truly grateful for you and your dedication to this school. Thank you!

Thank you to Alicia Lyford for being the most supportive, thoughtful, caring, principal. I am continuously amazed at how she can think outside the box and make things happen that are in the best interest of everyone. I was able to be home, heal, and not feel stressed all because she had everything under control. Thank you again for supporting me through this unfortunate time, Alicia!

Thank you to Anne Carter who was my consistent visitor and kept me connected with math, professional development, and provided me with some hugely needed friendly conversations! Thank you, Anne! It was so nice to see you each week!

I also want to thank Jillian Zeilenga for her frequent visits and for starting the meal train for my family. I was unable to move at all for quite some time, and having meals delivered was such a help to my family. We all appreciated that! Thank you for being so thoughtful and such a great friend!

Lastly, I want to thank the community of EMES, staff, children, friends, parents, and all others who helped to make my recovery the best it could be. The cards, meals, visits, and encouraging words which I often heard meant the world to me. This is such a generous, loving school and community. I am so thankful to be a part of it.

—Lisa Gariboldi is a first grade teacher at EMES and lives with her family on Vincent Flats Road.



After touring the printing plant, I interviewed Brown at the East Montpelier fire station where he was spending a night on duty as deputy fire chief. The roads were icy, but we weren't interrupted by an emergency, and Brown had plenty of time to tell me about how he came to Vermont from Massachusetts in 1980. He had worked for a printer near Boston, as an estimator and a pressman. He and his wife, Diane, came to Vermont to home-school their three children from grade three on.

After working for Leahy Press, Brown decided to start his own printing company. He moved to East Montpelier in 1983 and set up shop off Route 14. The original print shop was in a barn by his house. When he needed to expand, he moved the operation to Barre.



The Brown family in front of the print shop, from the Jan/Feb 1991 issue

Brown steadily acquired equipment and at one point had six sheet-fed presses and a variety of bindery equipment. His business was profitable, serving customers in Vermont and beyond. L. Brown & Sons earned a reputation for quality and reliability that made them, for example, the preferred printer for the State of Vermont's ballots and other printing jobs, not to mention the East Montpelier Town Report.

But Brown noticed something about 12 years ago—a lot of printers who had 25-year-old Heidelberg equipment were starting to go out of business. Brown's equipment was that same vintage, and he realized he'd have to adopt new technology or see his company decline. In 2010, he sold his six presses and bought one new 7-color Heidelberg Speedmaster, a perfecting press that can print both sides of a sheet in a single pass. Compared to older equipment, the press yields more impressions per hour with a smaller crew, and offers better quality.

He also bought the plant's first digital press, a Xerox iGen 3. Brown has steadily upgraded, twice replacing the equipment with Xerox's latest model. His current iGen 5 is capable of printing exceptionally fine lines in tight register with color quality that meets or exceeds what conventional presses can do. Digital presses are ideal for shorter pressruns and for incorporating personalized messages.

Brown is proud of the reproduction quality from his Speedmaster and his state-of-the-art digital press. Both presses and the shop's large format Epson proofer are calibrated to meet the G7 specification, which allows multiple devices to produce essentially identical results, despite the differences in print processes. Customers can approve proofs on any G7 device with assurance that L. Brown's output will match.

Many of his customers choose L. Brown for print quality, while others value the shop's broad capabilities. The downtown Barre facility can bind catalogs with saddle stitching, softcover books with perfect binding, and specialty books with lay-flat wire binding. Their in-house mailing operation includes envelope stuffing and variable data printing, which can customize messages in an advertising piece. And the company's large format Epson proofer can produce art prints on a variety of substrates.

When L. Brown Printing was running six sheet-fed presses, the company had 35 employees. Now the staff is 15. Brown himself spends some of each day on the shop floor, often running the cutter.

The sons in the company name worked for their dad when younger, but both married and pursued careers linked to Brown's other passion, emergency services. As teenagers, Jim and Bob were interested in becoming paramedics. Today, Jim lives on the West Coast, volunteers as a paramedic, and works in law enforcement. Bob lives in Barre and is a paramedic and a registered nurse. Larry's wife, Diane, and their daughter, Carol, work at the printing company.

Owning a company lets Brown make decisions without profit alone in mind. He claims to be the number one printer in Vermont for giving non-profit organizations in-kind donations of printing. And one day, when he received a call from a man in a nursing home, Brown got to provide some special help to a family.

The elderly caller was near the end of life. He had finally finished writing a family history and had, he said, one last thing to do in life. He wanted to turn his manuscript into a book for his family. Brown had the text formatted and printed in short order. He brought 30 perfect-bound copies to the nursing home, and when the man asked how much he owed for this work, Brown said he wasn't going to charge him anything. "You needed this, and it's going to make a difference in your family, so let me give you this."

Weeks later, the man's daughters visited the print shop. They cried when they told Brown how much that book meant to their father and to them.

Printing has changed in thirty years, but as Brown says, "People have the same needs. Technology has increased the pace, but people haven't changed."

— Alex Brown lives on Johnson Road and isn't related to Larry or any of the many Browns living in and around East Montpelier. She writes theater reviews for *Seven Days* and is working on her third novel.

Paulie's Recipe

From the *Community Cookbook of the Friendly Circle, North Montpelier*, recipe from Mrs. Eva Foster

Date Bread

1 ½ c. flour
1 tsp. baking powder (sifted with the flour)
¼ c. brown sugar
1 egg
1 tbs. shortening (can use butter)
1 tsp. baking soda
1 c. chopped dates
1 c. boiling water.
½ c. nut meats

Sprinkle soda over dates.
Pour over both the boiling water and let stand. (until cooled down)
Cream shortening with the egg and brown sugar.
Add nut meats.
Mix with the other ingredients.
Add flour and baking powder.
Bake in a loaf pan. (325° to 350° for 40 minutes)

Paulie cooked five slices of bacon until crisp and crumbled them into the batter. It was delicious.

CREATURE FEATURE

Nadia McCollister, who is in tenth grade at U-32, submitted the following account. Nona Estrin, our resident naturalist, comments.

My mother and I just happened to see a bobcat run across the road in front of us as we were driving home at night on Brazier Road. This was something I was not expecting because I have never seen them anywhere in Vermont. Spotting this bobcat made me feel so happy and warm inside because they are a beautiful part of nature, and you don't always get to see them. I hope others get this chance because they are so inspirational.

Nona: Wow! What a treat! Vermont Public Radio just did a program on bobcats. Their numbers are evidently increasing in Vermont, and they are moving into more habitats. Fish and Wildlife is radio-tagging a few so we can know more about them. I'm curious about their denning. Rocky ledges, inaccessible to dogs and coyotes, are necessary. But is that changing? We have precious few such places in town. Was this cat a young one? How about the two others reported recently on Front Porch Forum? Or are we witnessing adaptive evolution, as, like bears, they change their habits and hitch their fortunes to being able to survive in human proximity?



Local Bobcat

Colin Blackwell

TVSC is Prepared

Thanks to a valuable gift made to Twin Valley Senior Center by the East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD), the Center is now prepared to respond with its own emergency defibrillator to situations that would benefit from immediate response. This donation complements the training in CPR of center volunteers and allows participants in TVSC programs to have an extra measure of protection onsite. TVSC is grateful to EMFD for the wonderful service it provides on an ongoing basis and especially for this extraordinary donation.

Jeanne Johnson of Cabot has been largely responsible for ensuring the greater safety of homebound clients who receive the services of Meals on Wheels (MOW). For the last few years Jeanne, on her own, has prepared Blizzard Bags. They contain non-perishable nutritional items that can help sustain the clients in case bad weather, power outages, or some other emergency situation prevents MOW drivers from reaching them. TVSC is grateful for the kind thoughtfulness of Jeanne Johnson in helping us take care of our most vulnerable residents.

And the Beat Goes On



Morse Farm's original 16x24 foot vegetable stand

I recently went back into the *Signpost* archives and pulled out the 1991 *Signpost* story on Morse Farm (see www.emsignpost.com/archives/Jul/Aug/1991). Back then, the *Signpost* was only one year old. What better feature for a young paper than one of the area's oldest farm families.

Our East Montpelier "face" did not appear until 1943 when my grandfather Sidney B. Morse's vision led him to purchase our County Road dairy farm, a flatter, more workable farm than the one he left in Calais. Soon my father, Harry Morse, Sr. came along with a vision of his own. "This place is so close to Montpelier, and with our maple theme," he thought, "maybe we can entice a few tourists up here." And that is the part of our history that has never changed.

For the rest of our ongoing tenure, however, change is "thicker'n hair on a dog," as Harry Morse would put it! We now host enough tourists, along with some mighty loyal locals each year to "carry" the whole farm *sans* produce growing or dairy farming. Our structures have grown from a 16x24 foot vegetable stand to a rambling set of buildings that stretch clear toward our "back forty." We have customers, both mail order and over-the-counter, from all around the world, and we employ a staff of up to 25 full and part-time people.

My son, Tom Morse, great grandson to Sidney, has now ramped up Morse Farm sugaring to totally modern standards and is ready to take our business well into the future—a future, by the way, that looks bright. Our product line, rustic setting, and proximity to major population centers stand firmly in our favor. Well, that, and good family decisions from two very introspective thinkers a long time ago.

—Burr (Harry, Jr.) Morse has been the driving force and the face of the Morse Farm for many years in addition to being a well-known local story-teller, commentator, and author.



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Town Weathervane

Births

- Simone Cordelia Lindberg, a daughter, was born to Jenny Prosser and Sarah Lindberg in October 2019
- Aurora Waring Eley, a daughter, was born to Sarah Waring and Paul Eley in October 2019

Deaths

- Faye Taylor, mother of Raymond Taylor, died in October 2019
- Adair Graves, husband of Dorothy Graves, died in October 2019
- Gloria A Biron, mother of Anthony (Pam) Biron, Michelle (Andy) Harper, grandmother of nine and former owner of C.P. Dudley Store, died in November 2019
- Darlene Grundy, mother of Matthew Grundy, died in November 2019
- Leon Ellsworth Hopkins, husband of Gloria Biron, died in November 2019
- The Reverend Charles (Chuck) Keller, II, former pastor of the Old Meeting House and the Old Brick Church, died in November 2019
- David Lewis, husband of Gary Ann Lewis and father of Trevor Lewis, died in December 2019

Marriages (as names appear on licenses)

- Hunter Frank Winters to Bethany Sue Preus in January 2019
- Lisa Anne Fredette to Angus Grant Mudge in July 2019
- Lindsay Walker Helwig to Erin Keith O'Hara in August 2019
- Steven Wayne Gilman to Linda Lee Squier in August 2019
- Michael Dyllan Hughes to Brittany Lynn Jones in September 2019
- Monica Gallardo to Jonathan D. Marshall in September 2019
- Abigail Margaret Albright to Brennan Jon Jewett in September 2019
- Lisa Patricia Drown to Richard Sean Finnegan in October 2019
- Gabrielle Marie Chaloux to Adam Jeffery Bailey in October 2019

Land Transfers

Transfers relative to estate planning are not included in this listing.

- Maurice & Barbara Brown to GoAlaska, LLC, a multi-family dwelling and 1.1 acres on US2
- Kristina Applegate to Kevin & Jamie Lynn Cullen, a dwelling and 3 acres on Haggett Rd
- Allen Freund to Nolan Chutarat, a mobile home on Sandy Pines Rd
- David & Celeste Huck to the Gladding Family Park Trust, 3.74 acres of open land off Horn of the Moon Rd
- Veronica Eldred to Elizabeth & Brian Ledbetter, a dwelling with 15 acres on County Rd
- David Rogers to Peter & Valerie Dietz, a dwelling and 2.3 acres on VT214
- Steven & Lisa Pratt to Eric Newland, commercial property and 1.75 acres on US2
- Estate of Joyce Bean to Tyson Brown and Julia Watson, a dwelling and 21 acres on Barnes Rd
- Seth Gardner to Thomas & Rachael Ledwidge, a dwelling and 30.92 acres on Old Trail Rd

Excerpts of minutes from governing boards are available on the *Signpost* website and complete minutes are on town and school websites.



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CALENDAR

Mon. Feb. 17, EM & Calais Historical Societies meeting and program. For information contact Sandal Cate at sandal@sover.net

IMPORTANT DATES

Thurs. Jan. 16, Deadline to submit petitions to include articles on the Town Meeting Warning. Signatures of 5% of voters (111) required. Town Clerk recommends submitting 115 signatures to account for duplicates.

Mon. Jan. 20, Martin Luther King Holiday, Town offices are OPEN

Mon. Jan. 27, Deadline for petitions and Consent Forms for local officials. Signatures of 1% of voters (22) required. Town Clerk recommends submitting 25 signatures in case of duplicate signatures.

Wed. Feb. 12, Absentee ballots for Town Meeting available.

Mon. Feb. 17, Presidents' Day, Town offices are OPEN

Tues. March 3, Town Meeting Day, EM Elementary School

The deadline for the next issue of the Signpost is January 27

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee
Development Review Board (DRB)
East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)
East Montpelier Historical Society
East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)
Planning Commission (PC)
Recreation Board
Selectboard
WCUUSD Board Meeting

as needed
1st Tues. 7:00 p.m.
Every Tues. 7:00 p.m.
3rd Mon. 7:00/6:00 p.m.
as needed
2nd Wed. 7:00 p.m.
2nd Wed. 6:30 p.m.
1st & 3rd Thurs. 7:00 p.m.
2nd Mon. 7:15 p.m.
1st & 3rd Mon. 6:30 p.m.
3rd Wed. 5:30 p.m.

contact: blusig@aol.com / 229-5441
Town Office Building
EMFD Community Room
Four Corners Schoolhouse/E. Calais
contact: rhazel@ezcloud.com
Four Corners Schoolhouse
Elementary School, Art Room
Town Office Building
Elementary School
Town Office Building
One of District Elementary Schools