

EAST MONTPELIER Signpost

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Volume 30 / Number 5

NEWS OF OUR COMMUNITY

May–June 2020

Cate Farm We're still here

by Hilari Farrington

Lines of cars used to cross the bridge over the Kingsbury Branch of the Winooski River, parking in the field adjacent to an orderly row of greenhouses. There was no surer sign of spring in East Montpelier than the opening of the seedling sale at Cate Farm just off Coburn Road.

Once there, gardeners from all over Central Vermont could browse and select from a dizzying array of healthy vegetable, herb, and flower seedlings. It was a springtime rite of passage, and so we were surprised to realize that the *Signpost* hadn't checked in on the Cate Farm since way back in 1992. In this time of social distancing, we interviewed Richard Wiswall online.

Question: In this period of quarantine, have you formulated any plans to make changes in your operation as growing season approaches? Do you still hope to have seedling sales?

Yes! We have greenhouses full of seedlings looking for a garden! Our plant sales will go online to address Covid-19 concerns, but we will be open for business. We will be offering online ordering starting May 1 and continuing into June, with curbside pick-up (even though we don't have any curbs!) starting on May 8. People can get more information and place their orders at www.catefarm.com/seedling-sales.

We'll also be selling our plants at Hunger Mt. Co-op starting in late April, and that is another option. We are also thinking about growing a one-acre victory garden of storage



Sally Colman

Sally Colman and Richard Wiswall

crops like winter squash to give away this fall to central Vermonters who are struggling from the Covid-19 virus. Stay tuned!

Our article in 1992 had Richard as sole proprietor who was considering the possibility of cutting back on farm work and sending out his resume. Clearly, that did not turn out to be the plan! What changed?

Yikes, 1992 was a long time ago! A lot has happened since then, but most significantly, I had the wonderful fortune to meet Sally Colman in 1993. At the time, I lived at the farm with my two kids Kuenzi, 8, and Flint, 6. Sally lived in

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Staying Connected

by Alex Brown

As we're learning right now, communal spirit can burn especially bright when we're forced to replace face-to-face contact with other methods. It's inspiring to see the essence of social relationships emerge. To stay connected, we've changed the means but kept the meaning.

The *Signpost* is a small thing, but the volunteers who bring you news of our community hope that its regular appearance in your mailbox will be welcome as we all adjust to social disruptions.

You may not have recognized the *Signpost* at first. It's got a new look that applies contemporary graphic design to the simple traditions of our newsletter. Mason Singer, a talented designer from Montpelier, created our new nameplate and redesigned our pages. You'll see bigger photographs, more white space, new typefaces, and bigger splashes of color.

Last fall, *Signpost* volunteers considered how the publication could present community stories in a livelier way. We worked with Mason over several months, asking him to retain the warmth of the old newsletter but update the look. We also asked him to incorporate Janet McLeod's original drawing of signposts, now on our mailing panel.

For this issue, we've had to work apart. We became another group that works like a mosaic, our isolated tiles forming a whole. The stories in this issue were collected on March 30, and we can't foresee what conditions will be when you receive this in early May. But we can be sure that

neighbors will be helping neighbors, and we'll all be watching spring sweep over our shared landscape.

In her novel, *Gilead*, Marilynne Robinson wrote, "When things are taking their ordinary course, it is hard to remember what matters." It is very easy now. Being together matters, as we were at Town Meeting at the beginning of March. I record that gathering in photographs every year, and the images all together form a group portrait of the town. There's only room to print one, but let this remind you of how close we were and will be again as soon as we can.

—Alex Brown is a longtime *Signpost* volunteer, photographer, theater director, and critic



Alex Brown

Thanks to the national primary, turnout was high for the March 3 town meeting—the first without a school meeting.

EAST
MONTPELIER

East Montpelier Signpost

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Keeping Us Going in Strange Times

by Ann Stanton

We're all changing habits and learning new ways these days. Who could have predicted that the roads would be virtually empty of cars, that school buses would be delivering food instead of picking up children, and that tax filing dates would be moved to July 15. We've learned the importance of access to the internet and how much we depend on one another for support and fun.

You may not know that East Montpelier has people designated to deal with pandemic issues: Town Service Officer Rachael Grossman and Town Health Officer Ginny Burley.

Although the state no longer requires the position, East Montpelier decided to maintain a service officer, and Rachael volunteered to remain in the role she had filled for years. While calls for her services were rare in the past, that has changed now. Rachael maintains a list of helpful resources and can make referrals. Recently, Laura McCaffery called for compiling a list of people needing help, along with a list of volunteer helpers, Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Rachael and Ginny took over running that list, noting that they will need more volunteers who are under age 60 as needs for shopping and other errands increase.

If you either need help or want to volunteer, contact Rachael at garlicmountain@gmail.com or 223-3177. She also can be contacted for helpful resource ideas and referrals.



Terry J. Allen

Social distancing, Vermont-style.

Ginny Burley took over the town health officer job after Dave Grundy became ill and subsequently died. This job is under the supervision of the state Department of Health (DOH); every town is mandated to appoint an officer. Ginny is in frequent contact with the DOH. She has received trainings about her responsibilities and what to do in different situations. For example, a health officer is called upon to investigate and report on dog bites, rat infestations, and rental housing issues (*e.g.*, lead abatement, mold, bathroom ventilation, and other code violations that affect health).

Ginny Burley can be reached at 272-4045 or emailed at vburleyvt@gmail.com

Here's their message to the larger community:

- First, celebrate our wonderful community. It's been heartening to see how helpful and supportive people are.
- BUT, be more cautious than you think you have to be. The biggest danger now is people who have no symptoms and feel fine but who can be harboring and passing along the virus.
- Don't hesitate to ask for help. We independent folks can find this hard to do, preferring to manage on our own. Reach out and don't be afraid to let someone walk your dog, fetch food from the store, whatever would help you stay at home and feel supported.

Stay safe, everyone. Be well! Our best hopes go out to you.

—Ann is an active Signpost volunteer.

Signpost Comings and Goings

We have counted on Darryl Garland's design skills and creativity to assure the clean, coherent look of the *Signpost* for some years now. We all (and especially fellow designer Terry Allen) will miss his can-do spirit and excellent work as he steps away from his *Signpost* work. Thank you Darryl for your great work.

This means we are seeking a person join our group of volunteers to help with layout and design of future *Signpost* issues. The software used is Adobe InDesign. We produce six issues a year and want two people to share that work.

Contact: *Michelle Singer* at jmsinger98@hotmail.com.

How Sweet It Is



Mark Catlin

About ten years ago, Mark Catlin got interested in growing and preserving food for his family, eventually even wanting to include sweeteners. “Maple syrup or honey?” he wondered. Knowing that collecting sap and boiling is very labor intensive, he decided on honey. As he says, “The bees know what to do; I’m just the landlord.” For six years now, he has

been what the books call a hobbyist, with fewer than ten hives. Depending on how things go, he tends between one and five hives each season.

Start-up costs are steep, he warns: about \$350 for an assembled hive, complete with live bees and a queen. And it’s not like he can just sit back and collect rent; there is plenty of work to do. Chores vary with the seasons. When dandelions bloom in spring, it’s time to set up the new hive, treating the bees with organic insecticide against mites to get them off to a good start. Each hive starts with about 5,000 bees, but they multiply their workforce

almost tenfold. Summer, then, entails checking the hives to make sure they have plenty of room to expand, to keep them from splitting off and swarming.

The bees are putting honey by for winter, and they do such a good job that they produce a significant excess. Now the landlord turns thief, “stealing” the excess in mid-August. Each hive needs about 60 pounds of honey to over-winter successfully; Mark harvests an additional 45 pounds or so per hive. He strains the honey for debris, bottles it, and melts down the honeycomb for candles. Finally, in late August, as the bees go for the goldenrod and other late bloomers, Mark again treats for mites. In October, he ensures each hive has enough honey and a queen and insulates the hive against the cold. The next time he checks is in March, when it is warm enough to peer inside and make sure that the bees have wintered over well.

Besides family use, he donates honey to the Onion River Food Shelf and to the Old Meeting House. Luckily for the rest of us, he sells some honey from his house to help defray costs. The honey is packaged in quart (\$20), pint (\$10), and eight-ounce jars (\$7). Being raw, untreated, and unheated, it’s in crystallized form.

If you want some of nature’s sweetness, literally from our own backyards, you can contact Mark at 802-793-6409 or markcatlin@hotmail.com.

—Ann Stanton is EME coordinator

Inside EMES

Though EMES is empty of students right now, I’m pleased to announce that the person who is leading us through this difficult time is recognized far beyond the walls of EMES and our community. The Vermont Principals’ Association has chosen Alicia Lyford as the Henry Giaguque Vermont Elementary Principal of the 2020–21 year.

In her ten years as principal, Lyford has demonstrated her considerable skills as an educator and an inspiring leader. Whether supervising the renovations and addition to EMES or being the instructional leader for our school and the district, Lyford always sets the tone and leads by example, with a strong back and a soft front. With her ability to earn the trust of everyone and her collaborative leadership style, she inspires and brings out the best in everyone.

She keeps all the parts of her job moving forward—facilities operations, trauma-informed practices, instructional leadership, professional development, communications through a weekly newsletter—and makes it all look so easy. She is available to students who have great respect and a strong bond with her.

With her leadership, East Montpelier Elementary School has built a robust multi-tiered support system, professional development, and embedded coaching. Having high-quality education and academic success for *all* students is at the core of who she is.

School staff believe they have never worked with a stronger administrator nor someone more deserving of recognition than Alicia Lyford. Please join us in celebrating this honor.

—Flor Diaz Smith is WCUUSD School Board vice-chair

John Holden Remembered

John Holden, East Montpelier resident since the 1930s and VT education commissioner 1949–65, was featured in the very first Signpost. He and Polly raised their four children here and were widely known, loved, and respected. He died at age 101 in 2002.

Olivia Gay

I knew John when I was a child. He and Polly were good friends of my mother, Elizabeth Gay. He seemed a distant figure from my child's viewpoint; but when I got to know him when I was an adult, I found him to be kind, funny, and full of life.

I had the pleasure of acting with John in *The Devil Was a Woman* for the Adamant Music School's 50th anniversary in 1992. He had a long, distinguished career in community theater, and this last role, as a man looking back on his life, was performed with great feeling. The Music School organized a tour of the play to Hawaii where we performed in Honolulu and Maui. It was wonderful fun to travel with John and Polly, who came along too. They rolled with every up and down of group travel. They were ready for every adventure.

One day I went for a walk with them in the Hawaiian countryside, so very different from ours. We didn't recognize the sun-dappled plants, and there were unfamiliar bird songs in the air. John was acutely aware of every facet of the environment and full of avid questions and thoughts about what was what. I can still recall the understanding that came to me in that moment: that this lifelong habit of curiosity is what made John such an engaged, thoughtful, vibrant person in his old age. It made me want to follow his example of being alive to the wonders of the world. Thank you, John.

Rick Barstow

My memory of John in his 80s was that he liked to get out in the woods to cut firewood; and, of course, this made many folks nervous. He was fairly handy with a chainsaw for an octogenarian. He eventually did have a mishap, which wounded his pride more than anything else, resulting in his being very upset with himself and the cessation of his wood cutting days.

Alison Underhill

I have so many memories of John and Polly, though Polly is the one I mostly had adventures with. There were, of course, the skiing parties, a couple of Thanksgiving dinners, other dinners. But one special connection with John involved a black cat.

Black cat came wandering to their house. John fell in love with him. Polly did not! Cat was relegated to the barn. John named him Barney. As a barn cat, he and John had some



Polly and John on his 90th birthday

adventures. They took walks in the fields, cat helped in garden, etc. Soon Barney was getting quite fat, fatter than even a well-fed cat should be. Pregnant! He took her to the vet for an abortion. But John was worried about her as the cold weather approached, so he asked me if I would take "Barnetta." I did, and she had a long life in downtown Adamant!

Janet MacLeod

I remember realizing that at all the neighborhood potlucks we had in Adamant in those days, John and Polly were the only ones belonging to the next generation up. They held a special place in the hearts of many of the younger people who had moved to Vermont from someplace else.

A particularly fond memory I had of John was when a group of us were painting the Adamant Co-op. I had gone up a ladder with a bucket of paint, and someone said to John, "Hold the ladder for her." His rejoinder was that if he had to take care of me then, he'd have to take care of me forever—or something like that. In any case, I liked that he wasn't given to babying people unnecessarily.

Alison remembers from that same time "John in his 80s on a high rung of a ladder on the west side of the Co-op, painting. We worried. He did not!"

—Thanks to Janet MacLeod, an original Signpost volunteer, Adamant artist, and daughter-in-law of the Holdens for organizing and compiling these remembrances.

Fox vs. Hen

by Tom Schmidt



Terry J. Allen

My enemy is a fox, named after the Hollywood starlet Megan Fox, which is her real name. Some foxes get all the breaks. Which leads to my story.

One July afternoon, I ran outdoors to the sound of urgent squawking and found my prized pet hens huddled near their coop, panic in their beady little eyes. I counted: Bertha, Blanche, Beatrice, Boopsie, Bitsy, Blythe, and Buffy all present. No Brandy. Although I had not lost a hen to

a predator in ten years, I was not surprised. Brandy established her reputation for reckless endangerment at our grandson's outdoor birthday party, dodging a dozen seven year olds while nabbing their dropped popcorn. More ominously, she often ventured boldly into the woods surrounding our house in search of grubs. This is where Megan snatched her.

Following a trail of feathers from the woods to a meadow path, I spotted Brandy lying limp at Megan's feet, where the vicious vixen had dropped our hefty hen to take a breather ... or maybe an aperitif. One look at me and Megan skedad-dled. I ran to Brandy, but it was too late for CPR.

Minutes later, having worked through all five stages of chicken loss, I placed Brandy's remains inside a Haveahart trap at the scene of the crime. Venturing out the next morning, I found that Megan had returned to dig a trench around three sides of the trap, but she carefully avoided the open end. Smart fox. I buried Brandy deep and confined my hens except when I was outdoors.

A month went by. Then two. I gradually let the girls out for longer periods, then daily, hoping that Megan's close encounter with me and the loss of her meal had discouraged her. But one afternoon in early September, I heard the same panicked squawking. Running directly to the meadow where Brandy had been dropped, I found only the remains of a one-sided pillow fight. Megan had returned, this time carrying off Blythe, an eight-pounder who must have furnished a fox family feast for a fortnight—while I formulated other F-words.

Hours of traipsing through the winter wilds following endless circles of fox tracks have turned up, as yet, no holes. How long will Megan elude me? And what if I find her den? Can I interest her in an all-expense one-way trip to, say, Marshfield? Meanwhile, Bertha, Beatrice, and the others huddle in confinement, hoping I will somehow resolve the age-old problem of fox versus hen in their favor.

—Tom is a retired teacher and the author of a dozen books in various genres, including a forthcoming small volume of poetry.

Green Up Moved to May 30

2020 marks Green Up Day's fiftieth anniversary. Previously held the first Saturday in May, Green Up Day has been POSTPONED, tentatively, to Saturday, May 30, due to precautions related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Be sure to check Front Porch Forum where I will be posting changes, bag locations, safety instructions, and lunch updates. In addition to clean, healthy neighborhoods, we want each and every one of you to have an uplifting spring.

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to call Chris Racanelli at 802-793-6687.

Town Meeting Potluck Recap

A multitude of thank yous to volunteers Taggart and Duncan Schrader, Ellen Seeger, Carolyn Shapiro, Mary Redmond, Carolyn Pastore, Rachael Grossman, Renee Kievet-Kyler, Loring Starr, Sally Colman, Emily Goyette, Paul Erlbaum, Doug Kievet-Kyler and Steve Watson; our donors Capitol Grounds, Dunkin Donuts, Hunger Mountain Coop, Price Chopper, and Shaws Supermarket; EMES staff Todd Hill, Brenda Clark, Jen Wiater, and Alycia Lyford; and the residents who brought in a meal. ALL of you contributed to a successful potluck!

—Sue Racanelli has lived in EM for 10 years and coordinated the potluck since 2013.



Duncan and Taggart: buon appetito

it should. With guidance from Steve Watson, they learned how to work the dough and successfully completed four pizzas: three vegetarian and one large non-vegetarian.

The boys say it is really fun to help out and to be part of something happening in town. They describe some of the perks of their jobs: last year there was a lot of Ben and Jerry's ice cream left over and they got to take some home. And every year, it seems, the volunteers miss at least one of the potluck contributions. At the end, there it is, tucked way back in the refrigerator or in the warming oven. It is these moments, learning new things like pizza-making, and

being a key part of the kitchen crew that keep them coming back to help each year.

Taggart and Duncan Schrader are wonderful examples of how young people play a key role in making our town a great place. At next year's potluck, be sure to greet them and thank them for their work. And maybe ask them if there is some other dish that may be hiding in the kitchen.

—Carolyn Shapiro is an artist/educator who enjoys helping with community events and projects.



Duncan sets up



Taggart makes salad

Behind the Scenes

What do two young students do when they are at Town Meeting with nothing happening that is of interest to them? Meet Taggart and Duncan Schrader. Four years ago, when Duncan was in second grade and

Taggart in fourth, they brought books to read.

But when they looked around for something else to do, they discovered a lot of activity in the kitchen. Since both of them enjoy cooking and eating, they asked if there was something they could do to help. They were given jobs on the spot, and this was the beginning of their increasing involvement in successive Town Meeting potluck lunches.

Four years later, they are now very experienced. Duncan particularly likes to help with setting up before and cleaning up afterwards. Taggart enjoys helping with the food itself. As brothers, they work really well together.

When I was at the table greeting those who brought food and/or purchased lunch tickets, Taggart and Duncan always appeared at just the right time to take the food back to the kitchen. I was amazed at how smoothly they worked together. While they usually have separate jobs at the potluck, this year they wound up making pizza together. This was a new venture for them, and the dough wasn't stretching the way

Update: Emerald Ash Borer

The invasive Emerald Ash Borer beetle, a threat to all our ash trees, was detected in Vermont in 2018 and is now around East Montpelier. The Resilient Roads Committee (RRC) has produced an interim management plan that will likely include staged removal of most ash trees along town roads. Residents can contact RRC chair, Jeff Cueto, about their favorite tree at ompompanoo@aol.com.

Learn more at: eastmontpeliervt.org/boards-commision/roadside-vegetation-management

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Town Weathervane

Deaths

- Robert Smith, husband of Alice Smith, died in February

Land Transfers

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

- Herschel Prengler to Steven & Elizabeth Martel, dwelling and 3.49 acres on Center Rd
- Justin Persin to Jacques Gourlet, 51.98 acres of open land off Quaker Rd
- Annette Searles to Alfred Commo, Jr., a mobile home on Robinson Rd
- Lora Stridsberg to Reed Kimberly, a dwelling and 8.93 acres on Mays Way

- Jennifer Perry to Ellery Packard, commercial properties and 40.5 acres on Packard Rd
- William Dunn to Malone Properties, a dwelling and 1.96 acres on Pine Ridge Rd
- Bean's Mobile Homes to Alan Jackman, a mobile home on Robinson Rd
- Fecteau Residential to Dorinda Wilder, a mobile home on Sandy Pines Rd
- Doris Royce to Hajro Bilalic, a mobile home on Sandy Pines Rd
- Jo-Ann Velandar, David Barney, et.al. to Shane Hinkley & Melanie Custodio, a dwelling and 1.0 acre on VT14N.

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

Thanks for helping keep the town well fed



Top: CP Dudley's, Renee Zinn. Below: McNight Farm, Steve Sparrow.

Terry J. Allen

History of North Montpelier

by Nathan Phillips

Have you ever wondered about the early settlers of North Montpelier? The very first was Nathaniel Davis, nephew of Montpelier's first permanent settler, Jacob Davis. Nathaniel was from Charlton, MA, and after a couple of yearly trips to this area, he moved to Montpelier permanently in March, 1791. Shortly after his arrival, on March 29, 1791, he was one of 27 attendees of the first Montpelier town meeting that officially organized the town. Nathaniel is considered one of the founders of Montpelier due to his presence at that important meeting. Note that in 1791, what we now know as East Montpelier was part of Montpelier; it was incorporated as a separate town in 1848.

Nathaniel chose his lots in the northeast part of Montpelier because he wanted to harness the water power from a nearby stream. He settled on what is now called Hammett Hill Road, "where his farm commanded a view of the hills and valleys below." By 1793, he had constructed a 32 by 80 foot barn, and his large two-story house was completed by 1795. These structures were located approximately where Karen Kane and Ken Trask now live.

From this first settlement, Nathaniel set about starting his business ventures. He built the "earliest sawmill in the north east part of town ... on a brook south of the [North Montpelier] village." This sawmill was located on what is now Route 14, on the small brook just north of the Orchard Valley School. There was also a large pond across the road from the mill until it was destroyed by "the cyclone of 1897." Today, there is no trace of either the mill or the pond. In 1822, Nathaniel supported the construction of what we know as The Old Meeting House by donating \$32 worth of wooden shingles from this mill.

Davis opened the first store in the North Montpelier area in about 1797. The store was probably run out of his house, but was "a fashionable resort for trade and visiting for a large tract of the surrounding country, including even to a considerable extent the great village of Montpelier." Later, in 1808, he purchased another nearby store. He also started the first potash and pearl ash works in the area.

Davis's early settlement and industry in the Hammett Hill area attracted other settlers and workers to the immediate area such that the first schoolhouse in the North Montpelier area was not in the village itself, but was "the small brick schoolhouse at the corner of the present Route 14 and Coburn Road." In 1813, the schoolhouse was rebuilt on the west side of Route 14 opposite Coburn Road.

In 1825, Nathaniel, having sold or closed his many other previous business ventures, turned his attention to farming on a large scale, "buying farm after farm" until he was the



North Montpelier Woolen Mill, 1838–1911.

largest producer of beef cattle in the area, exporting over 100 head a year to markets in Hartford, Boston, and Montreal.

In 1829, Nathaniel and his son Nathaniel Jr. returned to manufacturing by purchasing the fulling and carding mills in North Montpelier village, previously owned by Samuel Rich. However, since these mills had been built, better wool processing methods had been developed and the wool market had increased significantly.

Therefore, in 1838, Nathaniel, again in partnership with Nathaniel Jr., started the enterprise that would be their biggest contribution to the village of North Montpelier: building the woolen mill. The original mill building was "three hundred feet long, three stories high, and topped by a church-like steeple." The "Nat Davis Mill" up the hill out of the village was where "the woodwork and the immense water wheel for the factory was made. This was drawn down whole to the village, and set in place, then the factory was built around it." At the same time, a large boarding house was erected, on the uphill corner of Factory Street and Route 14, to house the mill workers.

Due to an "unfortunate partnership," the woolen mill project very quickly proved to be "a very disastrous enterprise." Nathaniel Davis, who had done so much for early North Montpelier, and who had been so successful in so many business ventures his whole life, was wiped out financially and was forced to sell off his other properties, mortgage his family farm, and ultimately, in 1841, sell the brand new factory. Ironically, the mill enterprise that brought financial ruin to Davis shortly after its completion proved profitable enough to survive for almost 130 years after its founding. Nathaniel died in 1843 soon after selling the mill. (*Primary source: Ellen C. Hill and Marilyn S. Blackwell, Across the Onion: A History of East Montpelier, Vermont 1781-1981.*)

—Nathan grew up in Marshfield and moved to East Montpelier in 1996. He lives on Factory Street with his wife JoAnn and their two college-age daughters, Rachael and Katie.

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Montpelier with her son Pete, 10, and was just finishing up her nursing degree. Sally and I hit it off and after two years or so, Sally and Pete moved to the farm, and we became a family.

The year 1993 was also big for other reasons. I literally bought the farm. Since 1981, I had been a part-owner of Cate Farm, in partnership with four others, and in 1993, I borrowed a ton of money and purchased the farm from the partnership.

Those years were a period of growth and diversification for the farm: vending at two farmers markets, starting and hosting a CSA for six years, growing medicinal herbs, and continuing with our wholesale produce accounts. Sally and I worked well together as a team whether parenting or farming; that's not to say that there weren't challenges along the way! As in any mom and pop business there are opportunities galore to develop our communication and conflict resolution skills. We also discovered, especially as Sally became more involved in farming, that clear job descriptions made for happier husband and wife farmers.

Our kids' health and happiness have always been our priority. As our kids moved through EMES and U-32 we felt confident that they were getting the best education possible. At home, mealtime together was coveted, chores inevitable, and vacations together mandatory. Pete, Kuenzi, and Flint were all willing helpers during their school years, both on the farm and at farmers markets.

How has your vision for Cate Farm changed over the years?

Our mission has always been to grow healthy plants and food for our local community. We continually refine our vision to include other concepts, like paying employees and ourselves a livable wage, keeping our prices fair, rebuilding our soils, and reducing our carbon footprint. In short, we aim to be socially, environmentally, and financially sustainable.

What has given you the greatest satisfaction over these last nearly 40 years?

I'm glad we are still in business! There is great satisfaction in the work that we do, from sowing the seeds to harvesting healthy, beautiful and tasty food for ourselves and for our community. Farming certainly has its challenges, but for the most part, most of our work is inspiring and satisfying. We also feel very fortunate to be a part of this amazing community. Although we hail from very different areas (Richard, Long Island and Sally, Detroit, Michigan) we feel at home in this



Pete, Kuenzi, and Flint

beautiful land here in East Montpelier.

Question: What advice would you give to young people interested in starting out in this business?

I encourage young and old to farm. It is a great way of making a living. But with some cautions: Think First, Act Second. Make a plan, do the math before you plant a seed. Good business practices are essential to a farm's success.

Don't bite off too much at first. In our excitement around farming, it is easy to overbook ourselves. Be cooperatively minded. Work with your customers, other farmers, and your employees. Think win-win-win.

Avail yourself of the many beginning farmer programs. These were not around when I started, and would have helped lessen the steep learning curve. Do good work and have fun at it. Turn every challenge into an opportunity.

What about the Cate Farm are you most proud?

That we're still in business!

Wishing you success in your gardening efforts and hoping you have a bountiful harvest.

—Hilari lives on a tiny road, surrounded by wonderful neighbors. She and her husband, Benedict Koehler, play and teach Irish traditional music, garden, and let the cat in and out of the house.

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CALENDAR

Keep in touch with event sponsors about possible cancellations due to COVID-19 situation.

Mon. May 18, 6:00 p.m. Meeting of E.M. & Calais Historical Societies, Old Brick Church, share potluck dishes with recipes from cookbooks from two towns. Contact sandal@sover.net for more info. Subject to cancellation.

Sat. May 30, 9:00 a.m. Green Up Day; bring collections to EMES; contact Chris Racanelli at **802-793-6687** or jumpinracflash@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT DATES

Fri. May 15, 2nd installment of taxes is due at the Town Office no later than 5 p.m.

Tues. Aug. 11, Statewide primary election, EM Town Office, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.



Source of toilet paper shortage revealed.

Terry J. Allen

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 Assn
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.
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
Town Office Building
Elementary School
Town Office building
one of the district elementary schools